FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOVERNMENT 'AWAITING SOME GESTURE' FROM U.S.

PY162035 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2106 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (DYN) -- The Argentine Government has not made any "political decision" to withdraw its military attaches from the Central American embassies, and is awaiting "some gesture" from the United States to review bilateral relations, because, it has been stated, "so far they have only been making demands, without giving any offers in exchange."

Diplomatic sources this afternoon reported that the Foreign Ministry is studying the designations of ambassadors, but no date has yet been set for sending the designations to the Senate for approval. It was also said that the Argentine representatives to the United States, who will assume the post of chief of mission after June 1984 to replace Lucio Garcia del Solar, who has been head of that mission since the latest military government, will be a career diplomat.

Concerning relations with the United States, it was said that Argentina "is awaiting some gesture" from Washington which would allow the revision of problems that are affecting bilateral relations. In this regard, it was said that the new Yankee ambassador to Buenos Aires, Frank Ortiz, is playing a "very dynamic" role.

It was said that "the United States so far has only been making demands without making any offers in exchange." Nuclear affairs, the foreign debt, and the Malvinas were cited as examples.

Regarding the foreign debt, sources have stated that the government initiative to request political support from governments of developed nations to negotiate under better conditions "is running smoothly in Europe" and has received the support of some U.S. sectors, including that led by Senator Edward Kennedy.

As far as the Argentine nuclear matter is concerned, it would be ready to sign safeguards concerning Latin America and even to "create a system of mutual review to prevent competition among countries of the area," but it is not willing to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Caputo will probably make a private visit to the United States, where he will lecture in several universities, by the middle of the year.

Regarding relations with Brazil, it was said that "they are flowing smoothly" due to the fact that Joao Figueiredo's government is facing a very difficult domestic situation and that he will be replaced within a little more than a year." [quotation marks as received]

The recent treaty signed between Brazil and the United States to manufacture weapons in Brazil with U.S. technology has been described as being designed to "dust out the Kissinger and Nixon theory of turning that neighbor country into a leader in this region of the world."

It was said that "being aligned with the United States in Latin America would mean supporting its policy in Central America, and that the political price for that attitude could be too high."

Finally, the sources stated that relations with Chile are "very friendly and cordial."

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES U.S. STEEL PROTECTIONISM

PY170150 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Feb 84 p 16

[Editorial: "Steel, Development, Protectionism"]

[Excerpts] A few days ago the U.S. Department of Commerce released a preliminary ruling levying an additional tax on steel imports from Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. The grounds that this U.S. department claimed justified its decision were the strong assumption that these countries are subsidizing their steel production which implies unfair competition with the U.S. iron and steel industry.

The truth is that lately the United States has been resorting more and more to various types of protectionism in order to safeguard its industry from foreign competition spurred by the strength of the U.S. dollar. Among those affected are many items produced in Latin America, a list to which we can now add iron and steel from Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Thus, the northern country is once again straying from its much ballyhooed free trade, forcing smaller countries to bear the brunt of its problems. The local reaction should be a proper legal and economic defense of the affected industry and a policy aimed at expanding domestic demand which will lead to the strengthening and growth of this industry.

If we take a really close look, we will see that Argentina did not set up its iron and steel industry in order to take over the U.S. market, but to replace imports by developing one of the sectors of heavy industry which is, at the same time, essential for the defense of the nation. The slump in the local market during Economy Minister Martinez de Hoz' administration was to blame for the severe decline in consumption that changed the then prevailing shortfall of production into a search for markets abroad.

Thus, this is a problem that can be resolved, first of all by correcting domestic policies. The resurrection of a businesslike atmosphere and a return to a pattern of growth in Argentina will show that the steel we produce is not enough to cope with domestic demand. Meanwhile, the problem which iron and steel mills are facing is real because the markets where they could sell their products at competitive prices are closed to them due to protectionist measures when their domestic crisis was prompted by the very lack of such measures.

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN RECEIVES NICARAGUAN MINISTER

PY170235 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0106 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM) -- Today President Raul Alfonsin discussed with Nicaraguan Reconstruction Minister Edmundo Jarquin the possibility of increasing technological and commercial exchange between the two countries. Jarquin conveyed to the chief of state the Nicaraguan Government's desire for a fluid trade with Latin American countries such as Argentina under the principle of independence from the great blocs made up of the two superpowers on matters of trade and technical cooperation. The visitor also explained the Nicaraguan electoral process and delivered a piece of art by a Nicaraguan artist to Alfonsin.

This afternoon the president also met with Regional Development Secretary Javier Poliche and National Deputy for Jujuy Prospero Nievas.

ALFONSIN SPEAKS AT PETROCHEMICAL PLANT

PY161735 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1407 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin at a ceremony marking the start of the enlargement of the General Mosconi petrochemical plant in Ensenada -- live]

[Excerpts] This is a good opportunity to reaffirm a basic objective of our government plan. We will reactivate the country and we will reject, as we always have all those people who propose recession and misery as a solution to the tremendous crisis Argentina is facing.

Argentina has suffered too much from these policies. We will not use the legitimate authority granted us by the Argentina people to disguise authoritarianism with democracy, because only authoritarian governments implement regressive policies. The Argentine people have not elected us to continue with poverty and misery. For this reason, we have outlined an economic policy that is totally opposed to those implemented by previous governments. We will not make any economic adjustments at the expense of wage earners. Therefore, our unyielding determination to fight inflation goes along with our determination to strengthen the economy and with our main commitment to achieve a sustained increase in real wages.

Whenever possible, we will grant wage increases in keeping with the country's economic hardships. These increases may not be as high as we would like, but they are the maximum we can give so that within a short time period the Argentine people may have the means necessary to develop our country. [applause]

Those who maintain that the government should not intervene in the economy [sinceramiento economico] and that market rules governing prices, salaries, and foreign currency should prevail are politically irresponsible people because their policy is a time bomb for democracy. We cannot [applause] build Argentina through social injustice. [applause]

I promise that over the next 10 or 15 years Argentina will again be among the top 10 countries of the world with the highest per capita income. It is necessary to adopt an industrial policy that will benefit the interests of the country.

Today we have the pleasure to launch this petrochemical program. In the afternoon, the agriculture secretary will announce the implementation of an agricultural fertilizer program.

This is how we are building Argentina. We know this is not an exclusive task of ours because we cannot do anything without the people's understanding and support. We may still expect death throes from radicalized sectors and stumbling blocks along the democratic path. But we are not trying to find scapegoats, we are not blaming anybody, because we know that the country has experienced many years of frustration. Therefore, it is natural for us to understand that we are still faced with a sick society marked by the existence of sectarian interests and uncontrolled emotions. [applause] But all this will be overcome. [applause]

ALFONSIN SPEAKS AT TRADE UNION BILL RALLY

PY170250 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0122 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin tonight urged his supporters to "embrace" the Peronists who staged a demonstration in front of Congress on Friday. Alfonsin called for a "strong and powerful" labor union movement and reiterated that the draft law on trade unions does not seek to benefit any political party, "not even our own."

Alfonsin spoke from the balcony of Government House to an ebullient crowd that had earlier met in front of the congressional building to voice support for the government bill on trade unions. The crowd then marched along Avenida de Mayo to Government House and shouted for President Alfonsin to speak.

The crowd was estimated at 40,000 at the Plaza de los Congresos and had dwindled to 30,000 at the Plaza de Mayo. However, estimates varied because several columns were moving simultaneously toward Plaza de Mayo and the congressional building. Some of these columns did not make it in time for the rally in front of the congressional building and had to change their route upon being informed that the crowd was marching toward Government House.

Alfonsin's speech was interrupted seven times by the crowd that hailed him repeatedly and shouted his name.

The president stressed that in today's world democracy is inconceivable without a strong and powerful labor union movement capable of representing the interests of the workers, as they deserve. He went on to say that the Argentine people have decided to rebuild their nation on the basis of popular participation and added that at this point this means that the workers should have the right to elect their leaders. He went on to say that the government does not want to do anything to place the Argentine labor movement under the umbrella of a single party, "not even our own."

Alfonsin then urged his supporters to embrace the workers who staged a demonstration recently and emphasized that this would be the best thing that could happen to Argentina. The president's speech lasted 8 minutes and toward the end he advocated a better distribution of wealth and social justice.

Radical Civic Union parliamentarians watched the rally in front of the congressional building while the crowd sang slogans favorable to the government. Small incidents took place involving a column of the Peronist Intransigence and Mobilization faction which attended the rally.

Groups of Peronists continued chanting slogans in downtown Buenos Aires without attending the rally on Plaza de Mayo and painted slogans against Peronist labor leaders, calling for the freedom of former Governor Ricardo Obregon Cano and protesting the trial of Mario Firmenich and Fernando Vaca Narvaja.

The crowd left the Plaza de Mayo in an orderly manner after hailing Alfonsin and interrupting his speech seven times. The slogans they chanted included: "United People Will Never Be Defeated" and "Olele, Olala, If These Are Not The People, Tell Us Where They Are." As the crowd left the square, it sang the Radical march and just before Alfonsin spoke it sang the national anthem.

FIRMENICH ACCUSED OF KILLING FORMER PRESIDENT

PY162135 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Feb 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Santa Fe former nationalist leader Guillermo Patricio Kelly said yesterday that Mario Firmenich, former leader of the publicly disbanded Montoneros left-wing terrorist organization, "murdered General Pedro Eugenio Aramburu on the orders of the P-2" outlawed Masonic Lodge.

Kelly said that Firmenich, who is currently under arrest in Rio de Janeiro and facing an Argentine extradition request, kidnapped and murdered the former president "on the orders of P-2 issued through...General Luis Beti, who is (currently) in hiding."

Firmenich "is nothing but a terrorist working for P-2, and let those who have been fooled know that he has always worked for the mafia, not for the national cause," Kelly said.

In statements to the local LT-9 radio station, Kelly also commented harshly on Judge Lucio Somoza's slanders lawsuit against him. Somoza asked that Kelly be given eight years for slander and contempt of court, to which the former nationalist leader replied that "if it were up to them, the (national reorganization) process judges would give me 800 years," because "odessa operates well in Argentina." Kelly also called Somoza a "Nazi."

On the other hand, he praised Federal Judge Nicasio Dibur, who is questioning the recently arrested suspected leader of the "Triple TA" extreme rightwing terrorist organization, Anibal Gordan. Kelly said Gordon and his "gang" kidnapped him last August for 16 hours, and charged that "the members of the military-union pact are nervous over the arrest of Anibal Gordan. Gordon is a tentacle of an illegal association threatening the southern cone countries; what must be done is to destroy the generating plant, the process judges, destroy them with the law, remove them from their posts."

UCR ON DEFENSE BUDGET, CONFIRMATION OF JUDGES

PY161758 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Radical Civic Union [UCR] Senator Antonio Berhongaray has stated that the Armed Forces budget will be reduced to 3 percent of the gross domestic product this year.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The Senate is discussing petitions requesting the approval of provincial judges. What occurred [words indistinct] Justicialist government?

[Berhongaray] The Justicialist government of La Pampa has confirmed in their posts most of the judges who served during the military regime. In other words, all cases were analyzed separately and the La Pampa Government adopted the same decision as the national government. Therefore, we are surprised by the Justicialist rejection of national judges for the sole reason that they served during the military regime.

Not only La Pampa but the majority of the Justicialist provinces have confirmed these judges. The Justicialist attitude is contradictory because on the one hand they reject judges at the national level, and on the other they confirm them at the provincial level.

We believe that what should be done is precisely what we are doing now based on what we announced during our electoral campaign. All these judges are being given temporary appointments and all their cases are being studied separately. Those judges who have discharged their duties in an efficient, just, and coherent manner and who can only be formally charged with having participated in the military regime will be confirmed in their posts. The judges who did not discharge their duties properly will not be confirmed.

[Reporter] We also know that the Senate has decided not to approve some petitions requesting the confirmation of national judges.

[Berhongaray] Yes, the Senate Agreement Commission decided that some petitions did not qualify for approval and it returned them to the government in the free exercise of its independence from the other branches of government. [end recording]

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SUSPENDS ACTIVITIES

PY160245 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM) -- The Chamber of Deputies did not meet today although its members were in session for 2 and 1/2 hours. There will be no more sessions until 14 March in view of a political decision reached by the various party blocs, according to the explanation supplied by Radical Civic Union [UCR] bloc chairman Cesar Jaroslavsky (UCR Entre Rios Province).

The Tasks Committee released a printed communique at the end of its meeting this afternoon, stating that this committee had decided that there will be no sessions today in order to gain the time necessary for improving the operation of the honorable Chamber of Deputies and to allow further studies of a number of items submitted to the permanent committees.

The communique added that it decided to empower the chairman to convoke this committee whenever circumstances require.

Diego Ibanez, chairman of the Justicialist bloc, said at the meeting that the decision to have no more sessions was made in order to overcome disagreements between Radicals and Peronists and not to exacerbate them, in the interest of all Argentines.

The chairman of the Radical bloc explained that the lack of activities of the Chamber of Deputies until 14 March is not a formal recess but a political decision to have no more sessions until then.

FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT EXPECT CABINET CRISIS

PY161244 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0221 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 15 Feb (EFE) -- Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado today denied the possibility of a new crisis in the cabinet of President Hernan Silez Zuazo.

Denying rumors in congressional and government circles that a cabinet reshuffle is imminent, Minister Mercado affirmed that the possibility has not been considered "for the time being."

Internal disagreements came up within the executive branch in the wake of the promulgation of the latest economic decrees, and several ministers went so far as writing letters of resignation in view of the strong criticism directed at them from labor unions, business organizations, and congress.

Sources close to the Presidential Palace have admitted that the progovernment Bolivian Communist Party might resign from the cabinet, since its leaders have said that the recent economic measures adopted by the Siles Zuazo government "contradict the party's political line." One of those measures was the government's recognition of the banking sector's foreign debt, and its decision to negotiate with the IMF.

UDP, CABINET MEET; EMPLOYEES OCCUPY MINISTRIES

PY161250 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Bolivian Communist Party First Secretary Jorge Colle Cueto has stated that the shortage of staples, the price issue, and the labor claims are difficult problems to solve. Colle Cueto said that at the joint cabinet-UDP [Democratic Popular Unity] meeting held in Government House the country's general situation was analyzed and it was decided to seek solutions to these problems along with opposition parties.

The top Communist leader said that the government must decide whether to take over the ministries or to allow public employees to get away with their actions. He said that government authorities have not been able to enter their ministries to work because they have been occupied by public employees holding a 48-hour strike.

MILITARY VIEWS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Approve Current Process

PY161520 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Brasilia -- According to the Armed Forces High Command, the March 1984 revolutionary process is to be completed with the transfer of power to a civilian president under the electoral rules written into the Constitution now in force, that is, without direct presidential elections at this time. This was the conclusion reached at the meeting President Figueiredo had with his military ministers, according to information provided by a military source.

The position of the military ministers foresees that a civilian president, after taking power, can promote the necessary understandings to change the constitutional rules, and that a new social pact can then indicate a new course of political opening until democracy is fully consolidated in Brazil. These views amount to a warning to those seeking the PDS [Social Democratic Party] presidential nomination, views that will be conveyed to the PDS presidential hopefuls in separate meetings they will hold today with President Figueiredo.

According to the source, the military ministers expressed their concern about two aspects of the popular mobilization for reestablishing direct elections. One aspect deals with the support that the popular forces are providing leftist parties and groups, thus increasing their capacity to mobilize and exert pressure on state governments. The most cited example of that is the fact that the Communist Party of Brazil (PC of B) was in charge of "security" at the Praca de Se rally in Sao Paulo. The other aspect deals with the growth of the Workers Party (PT) in urban centers. Having been informed in recent days that the PC of B of Goias State is preparing a 60,000-strong march on Brasilia when Congress votes on the amendment restoring direct elections, the military ministers said that the march would be a provocation.

In an interview granted yesterday, Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca affirmed that "reports that the military ministers had demanded a decision from President Figueiredo regarding the PDS candidate he will publicly back at the party's convention are false." Minister Fonseca said that this point was not discussed at the president's meeting with the military ministers, nor was the question of the president's meetings with the PDS presidential hopefuls. The Navy minister added: "We just discussed the implications of the military-industrial agreement with the United States, including possible restrictions on our exports because we are not going to sign an agreement affecting them."

Condemn Direct Elections

PY170110 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] The meeting of Social Democratic Party presidential hopefuls called by President Figueiredo yesterday at Planalto Palace was prompted by a document signed by the four military ministers, who strongly condemned the return to direct elections for president of the nation. The document was delivered to President Figueiredo on Tuesday. The president of the nation read the document, signed by Ministers Walter Pires, Maximiano da Fonseca, Delio Jardim de Mattos, and Waldir Vasconcelos, at the beginning of his meeting with Aureliano Chaves, Mario Andreazza, Marco Maciel, and Paulo Maluf.

In the document the military expressed their concern over the turn that the national campaign in favor of direct elections was taking and over the possible "Argentinization of the country" if the Congress were to approve the return of popular voting. The Planalto Palace distributed a note in which the president guarantees that his successor will be elected through the indirect system. Figueiredo asked the candidates to maintain the unity of the PDS and to defend the Electoral College, but he did not manage to convince the vice president. According to one of the people attending the meeting, Paulo Maluf warned against the "communization" of the country and displayed photographs of the rally held at Praca da Se which showed PC [Communist Party] flags.

Condemnation Denied

PY170115 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] During a press conference today in [name indistinct], General Rubem Ludwig, chief of the Military Household of the Presidency, accompanied by President Joao Figueiredo, denied that the military ministers had forwarded a document to Figueiredo in which they opposed the direct balloting system, as was reported today by the Sao Paulo press, specifically by the daily O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO.

According to Gen Ludwig, it is obvious that all the president's men, all his ministers, and all his advisers participate in all the assessments that are being made. That the military ministers participated in the talks with the president is just normal, you see. It is logical and it is absolutely indispensable that this is so, since the president listens to as many people as possible, primarily to those who contribute to the task. Gen Ludwig explained that this, nonetheless, does not mean that a document had been forwarded to the president. This is untrue. There was no document from the military sector directly addressed to Figueiredo, Gen Ludwig concluded.

COMMENTARY ON FIGUEIREDO-PDS HOPEFULS MEETING

Effect of Argentina

PY161634 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Feb 84 p 2

["Castello's Column" by Carlos Castello Branco: "Government Rejects 'Argentinization'"]

[Excerpts] Something very important should happen today regarding the presidential succession. This morning, President Figueiredo will meet with the PDS presidential hopefuls at Planalto Palace.

The president's decision to hold those meetings was made after his meeting separately with the military ministers and with those who are known as "ministers of the house" [the chief of the National Intelligence Service, the chief of the Military Cabinet, the chief of the Civilian Cabinet, and the planning minister].

We know that in the government's view (let's leave the military aside), the Brazilian liberalization process was moving along fine until elections were held in Argentina, with its known consequences. The Argentine elections had a very strange effect on the Brazilian situation, which is in many ways different from the Argentine one. Alfonsin's triumph had changed the mood in Brazil, and in some ways "stirred up" the Brazilian process. The campaign for direct elections heated up, aroused the country emotionally, and opened the streets to leftist radical groups.

The "stirring up" substantially changed the political process and the campaign for direct presidential elections, which was inadvertently encouraged by the statements the president himself made in Africa. It also disturbed the Brazilian process, which does not include direct elections to pick Figueiredo's successor. Direct elections can be allowed, and expected, for the election after next.

The overall result is that the president has lost control over the PDS and, consequently, over the Electoral College. This unexpected fact opened the way for an intense mobilization in favor of direct elections, and allowed governors, senators, and deputies of the PDS to voice their approval of an election method not yet accepted by the system. This upset the government's strategy and is therefore unacceptable. The "Argentinization" will stymie the process, unseat the PDS from its position as the channel for the succession, and wreck the Electoral College.

Meeting Seen as Failure

PY161353 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Jose Augusto Ribeiro commentary]

[Text] Some newspaper headlines view yesterday's meeting between President Figueiredo and the Social Democratic Party [PDS] presidential hopefuls as an attempt to bring into line some of these hopefuls and PDS congressmen who are determined to support the bill [which reestablishes direct election] proposed by Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] Deputy Dante Oliveira. If this was the objective, the meeting did not yield the expected result.

Opening the meeting, President Figueiredo made two requests to the four PDS presidential hopefuls in attendance: Vice President Aureliano Chaves, Minister Mario Andreazza, Senator Marco Maciel, and Deputy Paulo Maluf. First, he appealed for unity in the PDS, a request that was accepted by everyone. Second, he appealed for support of indirect elections, a request that was not accepted by everyone. Chaves and Maciel maintained their position in favor of direct elections, although pledging not to join the campaign for direct elections in view of the PDS commitments. Another reservation Chaves made is that, despite favoring PDS unity, he could not now commit himself to accepting the outcome of the convention which will elect the PDS candidate, because this would be like signing a blank promissory note. Chaves prefers to delay a decision on this matter until after the PDS convention.

Chaves confirmed that he proposed to the president that the four PDS presidential hopefuls withdraw their candidacies to allow the president to choose someone who has not yet entered the presidential race, a prominent candidate who would be readily accepted by all PDS sectors. It seems that Chaves was the only one who supported this proposal, because it went unheeded.

Immediately after President Figueiredo's meeting with the PDS presidential hopefuls, the PDS group favoring direct elections reaffirmed in Congress that it will continue to support direct elections and announced that it will propose a bill to counter the one presented by PMDB Deputy Dante Oliveira. The PDS group bill will propose the reestablishment of direct elections to replace President Figueiredo, either in November 1984 or in January 1985 at the latest. It will also seek to reestablish congressional prerogatives that had been withdrawn in recent years and to reduce the powers of the executive branch.

DEFENSE MINISTER TRAVELS TO VENEZUELA FOR TALKS

PA161925 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Colombian Defense Minister General Gustavo Matamoros D'Acosta today left for Caracas at 1500 to meet with Venezuelan Defense Minister General Humberto Alvalde Alvarez and President Jaime Lusinchi. The purpose of D'Acosta's visit is to discuss ways to counteract the activities of drug traffickers operating in the two countries.

MINISTER TO ATTEND NICARAGUAN ELECTORAL CEREMONY

PA170208 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 3-A

[Excerpts] The Colombian Government will be represented at the ceremony to promulgate Nicaragua's new electoral law on 21 February. This will be the first step taken by the Sandinist government toward reestablishing democracy in Nicaragua.

On that same day, Nicaragua and Colombia will sign an economic and commercial cooperation agreement in pursuance of President Belisario Betancur's policy supporting the Central American countries.

Colombian Economic Planning Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal will represent the Colombian Government at the electoral ceremony in Managua. He will go to Nicaragua in the third week of February. The bilateral cooperation agreement that the two states will sign will establish preferential tariffs for a wide range of future Colombian purchases. The agreement establishes the reduction of import duties on articles that will be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

A Nicaraguan Government mission traveled to Colombia in January for advance talks with the Betancur government. The agreements will be duly formalized with the signature of the documents on 21 February in Managua. Colombia wants to increase its purchases from Nicaragua to balance the trade between the two countries, which is currently unfavorable to Nicaragua, and to implement projects to support the Central American nations.

BETANCUR ORDERS REPORT ON NEWSMEN'S DEATH

PA162038 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur today asked that Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez submit as detailed a report as possible on the progress of the investigation into the deaths of three newsmen and the attack on another.

Citing the facts related to the tragic death of newsmen Alirio Mora Beltran, Nelson Amaya Farreto, and Mario Pinedo, as well as the injuries sustained by Alejandro Jaramillo, the president's message to the attorney general said: In the past, I condemned the efforts to silence the press. I proposed then, and I reiterate now, that a common front should be formed uniting those who govern and those who are governed, in order to raise a wall against barbarity.

It is sad to see newsmen, who are (?defenders) of the truth, and therefore of our community, fall as these have fallen.

The president also pointed out: You, the public opinion, and I, all agree that the freedom (?of movement) and the rights that newsmen should enjoy are an essential part of any democracy. As the ones who govern, we must guarantee the professional exercise of serious, responsible journalism, as fortunately most Colombian journalism is.

CHARGES FILED AGAINST MAS IN PEASANT MURDERS

PA161703 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpt] According to a charge made today by a peasant from Antioquia, 23 peasants, including several of his relatives, have reportedly been murdered in Amalfi and (Vegachi) municipalities.

The charge was filed with Antioquia Department Governor (Nicanor Restrepo Santamaria), the regional attorney general, and the Antioquia Human Rights Commission president.

The peasant, a student who said his name was Leonardo de Jesus Gaviria Hernandez, said that apparently the crimes were committed by the Death to Kidnappers organization, MAS. He also held several Army members and policemen, as well as a regional police inspector, responsible for the crimes.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT -- President Belisario Betancur and his economic team, headed by Finance Minister Edgar Gutierrez Castro, have announced earnest efforts to alleviate the country's foreign debt, which amounts to $4 billion. These efforts include collection from delinquent domestic debtors and an improvement in production. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84 PA]

DAILY CRITICIZES U.S. PROTECTIONIST POLICIES

PY170130 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p A 2

[Editorial: "Harmful U.S. Protectionism"]

[Text] Once again the U.S. Government has taken a position contradictory to its own creed about the need for a free market by setting customs duties on Peruvian textile products. According to information from New York, the U.S. Commerce Department will reportedly apply a system of countervailing duties or tax surcharges to another textile product manufactured in our country, or it may include our product in the list of articles subjected to import quotas. This represents a continuing commercial hostility against our exports, since in 1983 the U.S. Government had already applied a tax surcharge on our textiles and cotton thread under the pretext that Export Certificates and the Export Promotion Fund were subsidies. Therefore, Peru was obliged to derogate those tax exemptions looked upon unfavorably by U.S. Customs. The hope was that the Commerce Department would review the drastic customs duty measures, but so far it has not done so. The textile products were supposed to start entering the U.S. markets duty free on 25 January 1983. However, this has also been prevented by the unjust economic sanctions imposed on us.

Undoubtedly all of these things are not only a serious obstacle for strengthening commercial links between the two countries but they can also have political repercussions. As can be recalled, similar problems caused the postponement of President Belaunde Terry's trip to the United States. We have indicated several times that U.S. policies toward South Amercia have serious deficiencies. It is now worth pointing out that one of the most serious errors is the poor U.S. economic treatment given to our countries. Commercial protectionism is not necessarily the best way of maintaining the political stability of the continent, which is permanently threatened by financial crisis. Therefore, we believe that the United States should be more cautious in adopting measures obstructing free trade for electoral reasons, which is what has happened in this case.

TERRORIST ATTACKS FOLLOW BLACKOUT IN LIMA

PY162140 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] There were several terrrorist attacks in Lima last night following a blackout. The blackout affected southern Lima and the districts of Chorrillos, Miraflores, Barranco, San Isidro, and La Victoria. No explanations have been given for the breakdown. During the blackout, there were several terrorist attacks in various districts of Lima. A dynamite stick went off at the (Vice) Bank. Two presumed terrorists were arrested near the Channel 4 television station and taken to the state security offices. Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise] reported that blackouts in Huancayo and Trujillo occurred at the same time as the one in Lima, which is presumed to be the result of a terrorist attack.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON VISIT OF U.S. LAWMAKERS

PY160235 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] After meeting with a delegation of U.S. lawmakers visiting our country, Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso said that Uruguay, as a sovereign nation, will not tolerate any intervention in its domestic affairs. Speaking about the issues discussed during the meeting, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Aranda said:

[Begin recording] [Aranda] In the first place, the policy that the United States had adopted in regard to human rights since 1967 has changed. Bilateral relations are much better. The commission of which I am a member is interested in the services of the Armed Forces and in maritime routes. We are not here to investigate or discuss human rights or political ways out.

[Unidentified reporter] [Addressed to Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso] Mr Minister, what is the objective of the visit paid by the U.S. lawmakers?

[Maeso] Their visit has been paid within the framework of our increasingly stronger and fruitful relations. That is, as the U.S. lawmakers themselves said to reporters, their visit implies contacts with government officials. This will obviously allow them to obtain a closer and more realistic grasp of the national situation. As the head of the delegation put it, they are interested primarily in contacts with the government and by no means in interfering in Uruguayan domestic affairs. It is important and interesting to explain this, because (?I heard) with some concern the question asked of the head of the U.S. delegation about what the United States was doing to strengthen the Uruguayan political process. In this regard, it should be pointed out that Uruguay, as an independent and sovereign nation, does not need and will not tolerate political guidelines or definitions from any foreign country. Uruguayan problems, as it should be, will be solved by Uruguayans, who will above all respect the nonintervention principle and who will also make others respect it. This principle is one of the main pillars of our foreign policy, both for our own and for other countries' affairs. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT LIFTS PRIOR CENSORSHIP MEASURE

PY161754 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The government provision instituting prior press censorship is no longer in force. This was just announced by Interior Minister General Julio Rapela. Shortly after 1130, Gen Rapela reported to Government House to talk about this question with the president. Afterward, he made the announcement to the press, stressing that this does not mean that all the restrictions imposed on the press through the 2 August 1983 and 18 January 1984 decrees are lifted.

[Begin recording] [Rapeza] What I can tell you is that the executive branch has resolved to do away with the procedure for controlling the press, which has been referred to as prior censorship. I want it clear that this is not really prior censorship, because publication comes first, and control later. This procedure will no longer be followed but, and I want to make this very clear, the 2 August and 18 January decrees still remain in force as far as stoppages, strikes, etc are concerned, because both decrees are still necessary to maintain internal peace, public tranquillity, and prevent disorder or incitement to disorder. So with the measure I have just announced, the government wants to elicit a demonstration of reciprocity to see if we can understand one another in exchanging views, without the need for severe measures. If this reciprocity is not forthcoming, on the basis of those two decrees we will resume the hard path every time we have to.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you had any meetings with newspaper directors seeking moderation?

[Rapeza] We are planning to call in the directors of the various media to a meeting this afternoon to tell them personally what I have just told you, and to talk about what can be the best way to proceed from now on to avoid adopting measures nobody likes.

[Reporter] What is the kind of reciprocity you have in mind?

[Rapeza] The reciprocity expected is in the tone of the criticism, that is, a tone that is not aggressive, offensive, or even false.

[Reporter] Can you tell whether this is a decisive step toward a new government?

[Rapeza] I leave the answer up to whose who benefit by the measure. Of course, that's what we expect to achieve by taking this measure.

[Reporter] General, Minister Valentino said yesterday that we are at a time when the Act No 7 can be dropped. What's your opinion?

[Rapeza] I would not like to digress from the specific question we have talked about. Thanks for your attention. [end recording]

Action Termed 'Positive'

PY170230 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Dr Enrique Tarigo, the director of the weekly OPINAR, regards the lifting of the prior censorship measures by the government as positive. After attending a meeting in which the interior minister informed the directors of the weeklies on the decision by the government, Tarigo pointed out that the decision is positive, particularly because the dialogue between the military and the political parties is about to resume.

[Begin Tarigo recording] [In progress] ...the minister confirmed the report of which we were already aware because we heard the radio coverage of the statement the minister made at Government House, where he announced the lifting of the prior censorship measures that have thus far been in force for weeklies. The minister told us about this decision and made some remarks on the disadvantages of the system of censorship that had been enacted. He noted that the measures had been annoying to himself, the government, and everybody. He explained that the government imposed censorship to create at atmosphere of tranquillity which, in his opinion, did not prevail when that measure was adopted. Some of us told him about the difficulties caused by the decrees issued on 2 August and 18 January. The minister said that these two decrees are still in force. Concerning the decree issued on 2 August banning public political activities and the dissemination of reports on political activities, we told him that having already approved their organic charters and declaration of principles, parties now have to deal with political issues and with matters of collective interest. We also told him that the media have to report on such activities. [end recording]

ECONOMY MINISTER COMMENTS ON BRAZILIAN TRIP

PY161059 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Upon returning from Brazil, Economy Minister Alejandro Vegh-Villegas confirmed that the rate of inflation and of devaluation of the Uruguayan currency will fluctuate around 40 percent, and that salaries will be readjusted by 20 percent. He also reported that no important changes are foreseen for the current economic policy. Concerning his visit to Brazil, Vegh-Villegas said:

[Begin recording] [Vegh-Villegas] I held some cordial meetings which I believe will be useful. On Sunday afternoon I met with former Minister Roberto Campos, currently a senator, in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro. Our friendship dates back to some 20 years ago when we worked together. I also met with Planning Minister Delfim Netto and Finance Minister Ernane Galveas in Brasilia on Monday, and with Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro yesterday.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the results of your visit in connection with bilateral trade?

[Vegh-Villegas] Well, I did not address any specific issue. However, I discovered that there is a willingness to promote trade and eliminate some of the difficulties that have hindered bilateral exchange over the last few years.

[Reporter] Will the solutions to bilateral trade problems be included in a commercial agreement that might be signed when the Uruguayan president visits Brazil? Will an agreement be signed?

[Vegh-Villegas] I don't think any agreement will be signed. The visit by President Alvarez, like any visit by a head of state, is an essentially political event. Therefore, economic and commercial matters will be given secondary importance. [end recording]

ILLUECA ON ELECTIONS, NEW CABINET, OTHER TOPICS

Addresses Agricultural Meeting

PA161815 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1522 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Remarks by President Jorge Illueca at the opening of a 2-day executive meeting on the agriculture and livestock sector attended by Ramon Sieiro Murgas, agricultural development minister; Jose Menalco Solis, planning and economic policy minister; Bruno Garisto, director general of the Agricultural and Livestock Marketing Institute; and other ministry and banking officials at the National Bank Sports Center in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr Agriculture Development Minister, Mr Planning Minister, board members, distinguished guests, and participants in this event: For me, as president, it is an honor to make my first official appearance in public here before the national leaders of this sector.

This meeting sets a good example for the country, at a time when the nation is engaged in an electoral, democratic process, which we hope will develop peacefully and harmoniously, as befits a country with civilized urban and rural communities.

The problems to be discussed here are vital to our national development. The topics of nutrition and agriculture deal not only with the essential human need for survival, but also with the problem of national security throughout the world. I wish to state that as a member of the executive branch I will attach the highest priority to this sector. I say this as a Panamanian and as a government representative.

To this end, we must visualize a realistic, concrete, and effective program -- a program allowing us to stand our ground firmly, in order to resolve our problems together, consulting among ourselves and with the technicians, with you the specialists, who have confidence in this sector and who bring the country toward a healthier, purer, more productive, and more satisfying dimension for all our inhabitants.

I will conclude by saying: We are carrying out a democratic process wherein we trust that the Panamanians will express in May 1984 our views about how the organizations of public power should be renewed. This commitment cannot be delayed, and it will not be postponed.

When we refer to this political process, to the process of national structuring, we must realize that the passage of time cannot be stopped, and that today's event is a great example, both for public and private enterprise. This example consists of a dedication, a will to work.

The electoral process cannot halt the economic march of the country. We assure the agriculture-livestock sector, just as we assure the industrial, commercial, and banking -- because this is an international banking center, a financial center -- sectors that in this country there is stability, a de jure state, and juridical order, and also that the Panamanians, as is being demonstrated here today, have the will to work, know our history and our future course, and make a clear distinction between electoral politics and the policy of development. Electoral politics will take us to the polls, and the policy of development will take us toward family, community, national security, and stability.

Holds Press Conference

PA170050 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2222 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Press conference given by President Jorge Illueca at the Presidential Palace in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] [Illueca] Good afternoon, gentlemen of the press, radio, and television, I wish to send, through the media, a greeting to the Panamanian people and to inform them that the government that I now have the honor to head plans to continue, in a stable and harmonious manner, the investment programs of the [previous] administration, in an effort to provide jobs and to continue to resolve the most pressing social problems, such as programs in the areas of health, housing, and education, and at the same time, to continue to provide the climate of stability and trust that allows both domestic and foreign capital based in our country to develop harmoniously for the benefit of the best national interests.

The purpose of this press conference is to inform you of steps being taken by my government to restructure the cabinet in order to continue the programs that were already designed by the De la Espriella administration. I hereby pay tribute to De la Espriella, expressing my recognition and appreciation of the merit that he has undoubtedly earned in performing his duties, as he faced the nation's problems with unique serenity and efficiency.

The changes that the government wishes to make are reasonable. We do not wish, at the start of the electoral process, to give the impression that there are changes in direction, because this affects the stability of officials, of a great number of government workers. We wish to assure these workers that the most important thing is their efficiency, their desire to serve the public, and their determination to further the national interests that we all wish to promote.

We have tried not to act hastily. Perhaps the step we have taken in consulting various sectors before naming the cabinet was due primarily to the desire to proceed with prudence, reflection, and a sense of responsibility.

I repeat, we will have national elections on 6 May 1984, and all political parties of all tendencies and ideologies will have the opportunity to exercise their basic rights, as is proper within a democracy. In this regard, the executive branch will cooperate fully with the Electoral Tribunal, because it is the duty of that tribunal to direct the elections and ensure that suffrage is free, effective, and truly democratic.

The process of democratic institutionalization will continue as scheduled. With regard to the economic policy of the administration, I wish to say that the concept of rational austerity will be applied. We want all sectors of the nation to be able to carry out their activities in a positive manner and contribute to national progress.

Austerity in no way implies failing to resolve the nation's problems. In my opinion, austerity should be manifested in the process of formulating the budget, in making the necessary adjustments to it. However, within this concept, the Panamanian Government will scrupulously meet the commitments it has made with financial organizations: the IMF, the World Bank, and commercial banks.

We are also aware of the value to our country, our nation, and our people, both in the cities and in the countryside, of preserving social peace. That is why we insist that stability, harmony, and peace must be based essentially on respect for human rights and equality of opportunity. That is what we expect in the democratic electoral process in which we are engaged.

As to the international situation, Panama will faithfully abide by the principles and purposes of world and regional organizations; that is, the United Nations and the OAS. Panama will continue, with the same devotion, to participate in the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace. In the same manner as the presidents and foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama have acted in the past to seek peace with justice, to promote dialogue, and to establish conditions for understanding, that policy will be continued by the government that I head.

It is also logical that we keep in mind our sovereignty over Panama's natural resources. In this regard, we welcome the investments made in this country. We are prepared to protect them. As you know, we are also involved in a struggle and an effort by Panamanians of several generations in matters related to our territorial integrity and our independence, and in matters related to interoceanic communication through the Panama Canal. In this regard, our relations with the United States of America will remain on a plane of cordiality, reciprocal respect, understanding, and friendship, for reasons known to all of you and that must be included in the factors that contribute to peace and stability. Similarly, our relations with all the countries on this and other continents will be continued on the same plane of reciprocal respect, understanding, friendship, and cooperation.

I am very pleased to announce the following appointments:

Carlos Ozores Typaldos, acting vice president. According to the Constitution, the president is empowered to designate the person who will perform these functions until the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, also in accordance with the constitutional mandate, carries out the election provided for in our Constitution.

Oyden Ortega Duran, foreign minister
Carlos Ozores Typaldos, government and justice minister
Ricaurte Vasquez, finance and treasury minister
Susana Richa de Torrijos, education minister
Nestor Tomas Guerra Contreras, public works minister
Ramon Sieiro, agricultural development minister
Carlos Julio Quijano, commerce and industries minister
Arturo Melo, labor and social welfare minister
Alberto Calvo, health minister
Zia Elena Lee, housing minister
Hector Alexander, planning and economic policy minister
Gustavo R. Gonzalez, presidency minister
Oscar Vargas Velarde, deputy presidency minister
Luis Alberto Arias, general manager of Banco Nacional de Panama
Petra Bendiburg, director of the Human Resources, Education, and Training Institute
Alfredo Aleman Jr., general director of the Panamanian Institute of Tourism
Nander Pitty Velasquez, general director of the National Port Authority
Jaime Anguizola, general manager of the Agricultural Development Bank
Santiago Cajar, assistant director in charge of Price Control Office [replacing]
Ricardo Paredes, who has been relieved of these duties to take up other activities.

[Migdalia Fuentes, of LA PRENSA] Mr President, with due respect, most Panamanians feel that this administration you have begun will be of short duration and that it will quite possibly not even last until 6 May. What is your opinion? My second question is, Mr President, where is former President Ricardo de la Espriella?

[Illueca] Throughout my life, I have tried not to begin anything I cannot finish. All sorts of rumors circulated yesterday in that regard. I have said from the very first that my presidency in this administration confronts a top priority issue, holding the elections. I see no reason why I would not be able to carry out that process, because there is complete harmony among all branches of the government: the executive branch, the judicial branch, the Supreme Court, and the electoral jurisdiction.

Regarding your question about Don Ricardo de la Espriella, he is at his beach house in Playa Coronado. I spoke to him yesterday to say hello. He is in good health and is with his wife Mercedes and his children. He told me that he intends to return to the city over the weekend. I will not say which day, because he wants to be left in peace.

[Tomas Alberto Cupas, of UPI] My question deals with the upcoming meeting of the Contadora Group. Colombian Foreign Minister Lloreda Caicedo reported today in Bogota that a meeting will be held in Panama next Tuesday. What is going on in this regard?

[Illueca] Panama has always, that is to say...[changes thought] As a result of such a noble effort by Contadora -- in which Panama has a great image -- an announcement that a meeting will be held in Panama is only normal. Many meetings have been held and will continue to be held. And I think that Contadora's success lies in this, in the fact that it is promoting dialogue and that all of the Central American countries and the four Contadora countries are participating in it.

[Julio Miller, from Circuito RPC Television] Mr President, I have two questions: You outlined at the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives some concepts regarding CONDECA, the Central American Defense Council. My question is: Does our president still hold the views he outlined to the Assembly in November about CONDECA, or does he hold other views? My second question is whether the [letter of] resignation from President De la Espriella was specifically signed by him?

[Illueca] Regarding your first question, I have referred on many occasions to this matter, which is referred to in journalistic jargon as a stale piece of news. All this has been overtaken by Contadora's efforts. My position does not seek to create conflicts but to look for solutions, and we have always said that the solution lies in dialogue; in finding formulas for understanding; and in continuing with the peace-keeping procedures in which we are engaged, which are embodied not only in the UN Charter but in the OAS Charter. I believe this must be a satisfactory question. [as heard]

Regarding your second question I would ask the distinguished newsman Miller to approach the honorable Supreme Court. The original of the letter signed by President Ricardo de la Espriella is being held there.

[Balbino Macias, of Cadena Millonaria] First of all, and with the respect due you, I would like to protest that for some reason there is no regard for our time. We spent hours waiting on the date of the changeover, and it was the same today. My other question is that you talk of reasonable austerity. Does this mean that our current budget will be respected, or are new loans going to be obtained? I would like to rephrase my question. What do you mean by reasonable austerity? I sense that there is going to be a change in President De la Espriella's policy insofar as the economy is concerned.

[Illueca] Regarding your first statement, I have also been a journalist, and I agree with you that all doors must be open to journalism. A distinguished journalist heads the presidential information center, and I would be very glad to meet with you whenever you wish so we can establish the rules of the game and avoid this type of protest. However, I am with you. [laughter]

Regarding the austerity, I used the term reasonable austerity when perhaps I should have said founded austerity, meaning founded on the understandings that are reached when the operations and the investments budgets of the central government and the government agencies are drafted. I say founded on those understandings because in practice -- and many of you who have held public or legislative office know this -- when the budget is drafted with the participation of all ministers, and most particularly those from the financial sector, such as the Planning and Treasury Ministry, in addition to the comptroller, the president, and his advisers, an attempt is made, based on estimated revenue collections, to adjust the budget so as to control public spending, to provide efficient public services, and to make the investments required by the growth in our population and the Panamanians' growing needs.

Here is where the cuts are made. And this is what I regard as reasonable. That is why I refer to a reasonable austerity. When the funds allotted to a ministry or institution are cut following the drafting of the operations and investments budgets, they cannot even use the funds they are supposed to be using, according to the budget. This is what I call unreasonable.

Efficient work has been done here in this field. The institutions that are most deeply concerned about the observance of the borrowing and budget ceilings — the IMF and the World Bank -- have described the way public finances have been handled in Panama, particularly during the last 2 years, in a way that is a credit to Panama. I think this answers your question.

[Jose Montano, of "The Tenth Hour" program] I ask this question [words indistinct], which I head here in Panama. What impact do you think the new cabinet will have on the political race, which is now polarized into official and opposition blocs? Secondly, will you, Mr President, pursue any specific policy — following normal legal and constitutional guidelines -- to separate the presidential duties from the political fray? Thank you very much.

[Illueca] Actually, I know of no pacts about handling electoral matters with regard to the government. Logically, pacts and alliances exist during an electoral period. If we take, for example, one of the democracies regarded as the purest internally, that of the United States, there are two major parties there: the Republican Party, which is currently in power, and the Democratic Party, which is in oppostion. Within the party in power all sorts of arrangements can be made to promote the election of governors, senators, mayors, and other elected officials. We don't find this in Panama because there are many parties. The parties can reach agreements among themselves, and this is part of the political and electoral game playing.

What should indeed be above any sort of compromise is the behavior of public officials who, under no circumstance, should act in such a way as to produce among the population the feeling that they are acting in a partial, arbitrary, illegal, or dishonest manner. The people have every right to ask questions as to how the government will act. The government must act according to the Constitution and the laws and, insofar as its jurisdiction and functions are concerned, the executive branch must respond to the public trust and see to it that public officials do not engage in partial or dishonest acts or commit electoral crimes. This is the area in which the Electoral Tribunal operates. It has penal jurisdiction over cases involving fraud, and abuse of power, and cases in which the sacred right to vote, to engage freely in the political game playing, or to pursue aspirations is violated one way or another.

[Norma Nunez] [Passage indistinct] On Monday morning the CARACOL Radio Network of Colombia reported that there had been a coup d'etat in Panama and that General Noriega had demanded President De la Espriella's resignation. On that same day you talked with President Betancur, and you have just told us that you also talked with President De la Espriella that day. You have just paid tribute to De la Espriella's great human qualities. What did you think of your talks with Presidents De la Espriella and Betancur, and what conclusions did you reach?

[Illueca] I did have those talks. I am unaware of the incidents that you mention about President De la Espriella's statements in Chiriqui. I wish to tell you honestly that I was faced with the situation of a resignation, which everything indicated had resulted from a harmonious process, and from President De la Espriella's personal decision to resign. I am not going to examine the possible reasons for the president's decision. His very brief letter of resignation was published. He said that he was resigning from the post of president of the republic. Those are the objective facts, and all the talks that I have held with President De la Espriella and Gen Noriega indicated that there was a harmonious relationship between them when President De la Espriella reached his decision.

[Luis Estribi, of the Exitosa Network] My question, Mr President, requires a straightforward answer. There is no room for ambiguity. Dr Illueca, some people in this country are concerned about your becoming president, more concerned than you might imagine. The newsmen here know this is true, because they are in contact with the people. One can clearly see that in this country a very well orchestrated campaign, with very clearly defined characteristics, is under way for purposes that I would not dare identify. You are portrayed as a defender of totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist ideas. Dr Illueca, for the country's peace of mind, and at a time when definitions are welcomed, why don't you tell the Panamanian public and people of the world: Are you a communist or not? [general laughter]

[Illueca] The answer is no! [laughs] Moreover, I wish to say that I have a record that cannot be misinterpreted, right? On one occasion, in defending a distinguished Latin American politician, I said that in different historial eras when one sustained an independent, nationalist position, one was likely to be called different names. There was a time when people who maintained an independent attitude were called communists. In another era they were called drug traffickers, and in another they were called homosexuals. I am none of those three things. [general laughter]

[Ivan Zurita, of Channel 2] Mr President, I wish to return to a matter that has already been mentioned. That is the makeup of your cabinet. You said that in restructuring it, with seven new ministers and five confirmed in their posts, you had acted without haste. You spoke of the search for a consensus to achieve national concord. I would like to ask: In what way does this cabinet represent this path to national concord? Why should the common Panamanian consider this cabinet representative of the real path to national concord, or, finally, what policy does the president plan to follow during his administration to achieve this so-desired national concord in Panama?

[Illueca] Your question is very legitimate. The selection of a cabinet naturally generates such reactions. Some members may appeal to some sectors of the public, while others may be disliked. When I expressed my desire to achieve harmony and concord, I believe that... [changes thought] I wish to tell you that I say this sincerely. I think I am facing an historical test. I ask you, who guide the national opinion, and I ask my compatriots, to give me an opportunity to act.

I believe that this country can move forward through dialogue, dialogue among ourselves, among Panamanians. We must rediscover the roots of our nationality, our permanent national interests, and our right to development, to progress, and to respect for human dignity.

I admit that I may make mistakes. I may make wrong decisions. That is human, but you can be sure of my good faith, of my civil worth, and my willingness to move gradually -- through dialogue, talks, pacts, reciprocal respect, and the cherishing of all our cultural values, religious values, educational values, historical values, and economic and moral values -- to try, if you will give me the opportunity, to see if I can bring about this national understanding. Thank you very much.

[Presidential Press Secretary Jose Hernandez] Colleagues, before the president leaves, we wish to remind you that 0900 tomorrow. [Illueca interrupts]

[Illueca] Before concluding, I wish to say that on reading the appointment, I committed an omission. Mr Jack Cardoze has been appointed director of the National Sports Institute.

[Press secretary] At 0900 Tomorrow, the appointed ministers will be sworn into office at the Presidential Palace. The media are invited.

Cites Compatibility of Dual Posts

PA162020 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] At noon today President Jorge Illueca received leaders from the Youth Patriotic Front [Frente Patriotico de la Juventud], to which Dr Illueca belonged in the late forties and early fifties.

Our station took advantage of the opportunity to broach important aspects of our national life and his government work with Dr Illueca. Here is our report:

[Unidentified reporter -- broadcast in progress] ...to give a complete report on the government reorganization at the ministry level.

[Illueca] I can frankly state that regarding my post as president of the 38th UN General Assembly session, [words indistinct] to take whatever decision responded to the best interests of the United Nations, since I have become president of Panama. They told me that for the best interests of the United Nations they wanted me to think carefully before making any decision and that, meanwhile, they would hold consultations with the UN legal department. In effect, they told me that officially the United Nations found that there was no incompatibility in my assuming the Panamanian presidency and in remaining president of the UN General Assembly sessions, considering that the period of most intense work was carried out between 20 September and 21 December 1983. These are some topics that are very limited, such as that of the worldwide negotiations for economic recovery and for development, the so-called North-South dialogue. There are some problems such as the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, and the fact that there is still a vacancy to be filled in the Social and Economic Council for Latin America. That will probably require that the Assembly meet for a week or two, at an as yet undetermined date. In the past when I have had to fulfill obligations in Panama, we have arranged to have a vice president -- the assembly has 17 vice presidents -- assume the chairmanship.

ILLUECA REPORTEDLY SANCTIONS VETOED BILL

PA161914 Panama City YA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 4

[From "The Tip" column: "The Sanctioned Bill"]

[Text] Article 30 of Ordinal I, which amended the Electoral Code to allow the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives president to run for the legislature, and which had been vetoed by the former president, has been sanctioned by President Jorge Illueca. This bill had been questioned by the opposition and by several legislators, including Blas Celis.

PAPO'S ZUNIGA ON PRESIDENTIAL CHANGE, BARLETTA

PA161433 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1230 GMT 15 Feb 84

[The "Alternative" program: moderator Miguel Antonio Bernal telephone interview with Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga, presidential candidate of the Popular Action Party -- live]

[Excerpts] [Bernal] Dr Zuniga, what is your opinion of the statement by Mr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, claiming he represents the real opposition in this country?

[Zuniga] Barletta is the government candidate, the official candidate. He is the candidate of the sector the people want to sweep out. The people want to sweep out the system. The people of the opposition are allied to PAPO [Popular Action Party] because our party has no alliance with any other party, only with the people, and the people want to sweep out the process. The people want a change because they are tired of a corrupt process. Now Ardito Barletta comes and says he represents a change, as if the people were stupid. Naturally, he is lying.

Who has created awareness for a change in this country? The Popular Action party. What has been our party's struggle in the past years? To create awareness for a change. We have been, in fact, intransigent in this. Our intransigence is what has made the people believe in our party. If we had engaged in a constant flirtation with the regime, if the people had seen us at banquets and meetings at the presidential palace, or flirting with the ranking military commanders, or sending congratulatory messages to the military leaders, then the people would not see us as the party that wants a change.

PAPO is committed to sweeping away the process and making a real change. We do not say, as some opposition sectors are even saying, that it is a shame [former President] De la Espriella was toppled because he was a guarantee for clean elections. We disagree with that. De la Espriella was no guarantee in this country because he was only an instrument of the military command; therefore, how could we rely on him?

We will not have honest elections unless the people stand up for their rights and firmly demand free, honest elections. Even that may not suffice. It will first be necessary to change the mentality of the men in uniform, who are the real rulers in the country. Nobody can guarantee anything here because of that. And knowing [President Jorge] Illueca as I know him, I am convinced that he will not last long in the post, because he will also be quickly ousted.

Thus, the PAPO, with its firm opposition stand, declares that Barletta only speaks to impress the people. Let us not forget that he has been one of the main supporters of 15 years of misgovernment. We have to oppose the lack of education, health, and everything else that this country is forced to do without because of this poor administration.

COSTA RICA

JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER SEAGA ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA162012 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga has said: We have traditionally maintained close relations with Costa Rica. Because this country is in the closest proximity to the Caribbean, we have come now to expand these relations and to promote exchanges in all fields. The Jamaican prime minister arrived from Miami on a Lacsa Airlines flight. Accompanying him are Foreign Minister Neville Gallimore and other important Jamaican officials.

Regarding the Contadora Group's efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Central American situation, Seaga said that it can only be hoped that these efforts are effective.

This evening President Luis Alberto Monge, who received the Jamaican prime minister, will host a dinner in his honor in his residence. They will use this opportunity to exchange points of view on bilateral matters and to analyze the Central American situation. Seaga will meet with vice presidents Fait and Arauz tomorrow.

Meets With Monge

FL161204 Bridgetown CANA in English 1028 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, Feb 16, CANA-REUTER -- Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga met with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge last night shortly after arriving for a four-day visit to the Central American nation. Monge and his Cabinet yesterday met Seaga at the Juan Santamaria International Airport, where the Jamaican leader told reporters he hopes his visit would serve to strengthen economic and political ties between Jamaica and Costa Rica.

Government officials said Monge and Seaga had a working dinner last night but gave no immediate detailes on their discussion. Today, Seaga is scheduled to meet with Vice Presidents Alberto Fait and Armando Arauz and Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez.

Officials said tomorrow the prime minister plans to travel to the Atlantic coast Province of El Limon, where a large part of the population is of Jamaican origin.

MARITIME BOUNDARY TALKS WITH COLOMBIA BEGIN

PA161344 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 7 Feb 84 p 6 A

[By Elberth Duran H.]

[Excerpt] Negotiations began yesterday in San Jose between Costa Rica and Colombia to define the maritime boundaries in the areas of the Pacific Ocean where the jurisdictions of the two countries currently overlap. The talks began in the morning at the Foreign Ministry when four officials appointed by the Colombian Government met with the Costa Rican commission, which consists of Manuel Freer, National Geographic Institute (IGN) director; Fernando M. Rudin, an engineer; and Alvar Antillon, director general of the Foreign Ministry.

Our country, in addition to its 50,000 sq km of territory, controls a maritime area of more than 560,000 sq km adjoining its continental shelf, both in the Pacific Ocean and in the Caribbean Sea. The delimitation of those zones, however, has been agreed through a formal treaty only with Panama, and partially with Colombia for the Caribbean, while firm agreements with Nicaragua and Ecuador are pending.

The negotiations that began yesterday with Colombia are intended both to define our territorial waters, and to establish cooperation for the rational use of the natural resources within the jurisdictions of Costa Rica and Colombia.

EL SALVADOR

CHAMBER CONFIRMS TRIAL IN KILLING OF U.S. NUNS

PA161848 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt] San Vicente, 14 Feb -- The Chamber of the 3d Sectional Center [Camara de la Tercera Seccion del Centro] has confirmed in this city that the trial of former National Guard agents Luis Antonio Colindres Aleman, Carlos Joaquin Contreras, Rene Canjura, and Daniel Ramirez, accused of killing U.S. nuns Maria Elizabeth Clarke, Ita Catherine Ford, Jean Donovan, and Dorothy Kasel will be taken to a plenary hearing.

According to lawyers here, the chamber's confirmation rules out any possibility of a stay in the proceedings benefitting the defendants and it establishes legally that the three must go to court. It was also indicated that the trial will include legal testimony [declaraciones apegadas a la ley], which according to persons versed in the matter will permit the jury to reach a verdict without difficulty.

MAGANA DISCUSSES POLITICAL OPENINGS, VIOLENCE

PA152256 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 14 Feb 84

["Voice and Image of the Central Electoral Council" program: statement by guest Rene Fortin Magana, presidential candidate for Democratic Action, AD, during a roundtable of presidential candidates held at the Salvadoran Center for Legal Studies on 24 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] I must frankly say that I regret the fact that neither the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] nor the UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union] are represented here because they have adopted a stand that has led them to wage an armed struggle rather than to engage in political debate, which is what we should really defend and preserve in order to struggle broadly in this area. I regret their absence.

A few days ago we said that it would be interesting if the representatives of these political parties were atracted toward the purely political field, and that at the right time they should even be offered participation in the Central Electoral Council. This did not mean sharing power. This simply meant guaranteeing a chance for a full range of ideas to be suitably presented. We must not be afraid of ideas. We must directly and clearly confront all proponents of various political ideas, because otherwise we won't overcome the current situation.

The ideas that I am expounding are dangerous, but they were much more dangerous before, very dangerous. How could something like this be said, or suggested? You will see that in the future these views will be discussed. The reason is simple: In its recent document, the Kissinger commission suggests this very thing. The political problem will not end here, the document says. It won't even end with the elections; it is necessary to make political room for the various currents, for the various forces. It makes several recommendations which, now that the Kissinger commission has made them, will surely be discussed everywhere. Now we will applaud what the Kissinger commission has said -- which we could have resolved and said ourselves long ago.

The problem is that the Kissinger commission, like the representatives of the various U.S. organizations, arrived late because it is only now that they are proposing that the representatives of the parties mentioned above be included in the Central Electoral Council. It just so happens that we now have a Constitution that clearly determines how the Central Electoral Council should be composed, a makeup which in no way allows these currents to be represented in this body. However, there might be some way around shutting these currents out. Naturally, I am not deluding myself into believing that just because of this invitation, or because an effort might be made to incorporate into the political field the forces that are currently in arms, they will docilely accept all these proposals. This would be a delusion. However, by saying this I wish to stress that it is nonetheless important not to lose sight of the political field, because that is where we will finally resolve our problem. Our problem will not be resolved with weapons.

The first field I will discuss now, perhaps the gravest and most painful, is corruption. What do we have in this area? We have the greatest disrespect for the people's will, which I believe is the source of all that developed later and led us to a situation that at a given point became uncontrollable and unstoppable. Disrespect for the people's will is frankly the source of these regimes, of these governments that gradually fell down the cliff and became representatives of all forms of corruption and dishonesty.

We can no longer disappoint the citizens, the voters. If we speak of elections, it is because we are telling them that we will respect their will. The vote has been a martyred institution among our people and in our history. After 28 March 1982 we somehow docilely allowed the expressions of the people's will to be manipulated and permitted the installation of a government that was not the expression of the people's will. Beware, colleagues, because we are again falling down the cliff and there are parties and individuals here that do not want to participate in that game; we want a clean game.

We must take care of our institution; we must take care of the vote; we must be honest in the handling of public affairs; we must be honest in all our activities. This is something that we have been repeating. But do not be alarmed over this situation. It is also described by the Kissinger commission, which even had to create an ominous term to refer to this type of government. The term -- those of you who have already read the report have already seen it, as will those who will do so in the future -- is kleptocracy.

We have laws at present, and have had them in the past as well. The 1983 Constitution -- perhaps we will have a chance to say some more about this later on -- is a good Constitution.

Often, the Supreme Court had a, let us say, lackluster position, a rather subordinate position, like having to wait for some signal to be able to take action. This cannot be tolerated. I would like to mention at this time that the Supreme Court, which is the highest body of the judicial system, is the true guarantor of a democratic regime.

Let's now talk a bit about violence. I don't want to take a sad, macabre inventory of the situation that we are currently not experiencing but rather enduring -- all the death, the exploitation, and the destruction. The dead, the displaced persons, the destruction, and the missing persons are topics that we must take into account. The topic of missing persons is one that we must not overlook. We must point to it because laws are capable of responding to all of these [word indistinct] situations. And if someone is a criminal, if a person has committed crimes, there are laws and courts to impose the corresponding penalties through the legal means which, as I said a while ago, must not sit still and must not be ineffectual; on the contrary, they must take action according to existing laws.

Therefore, this is a topic that we must not fail to point out. This is the situation that we are currently enduring in this country, and if this is our current situation, we must gear our efforts toward correcting it because we are not going to eliminate this situation through more deaths, more missing persons, more destruction, and more displaced persons.

The situation is serious. Therefore, we must take up the challenge. As I said a while ago, we must think also about (?institutions) and about political situations, providing an opening or a chance to the other national forces -- which are also made up of Salvadorans -- to join.

Sometimes, because of minor quarrels and conflicts, we stage spectacles at the Assembly or stage spectacles in the distribution of public posts and -- hear me, mydear friends -- this is no service to the democratic regime. Many of our people ask: Is this democracy? Are these the political parties that are distributing power in that manner, who are fighting among themselves over one thing or another, who make a pact today and then tomorrow make another of a different nature, [cheers, applause] placing their personal interests above national interests?

We have a principle. I do not know where we got it, but I think it was from deep within our hearts: National interests are above our party's political interests.

We are moving forward, and as we do, tranquillity, public peace, and a climate of confidence will permit investment and the chain of events referred to by Roberto Escobar Garcia [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party presidential candidate]. But here, in conclusion, I want to mention three kinds of efforts. Of course, the internal effort can be divided into the effort of the public sector and that of the private sector. I want to say that the private sector -- although it was commented a few months or years ago that the backbone of private enterprise had been broken -- continues to push ahead, and that sector is perhaps the key to a national solution.

We in private enterprise state this clearly: We support large, small, and medium enterprises; not only small and medium, but large as well. Here we all need one another, as long as we fulfill our social responsibility, which is clearly defined in the Constitution. Therefore, we support that private sector which fulfills a social responsibility.

And just as we have said that national life demands harmonious action on the part of the various sectors, the private sector is not the only one that will determine the national life. There is also the public sector. I think that this is the sector that we must work on now.

The public sector must be up to par in order to respond to the challenge of current circumstances, especially now that we are possibly going to receive a good deal of international aid.

We will have international aid channeled to us, especially in light of current circumstances. Permit me to mention again the famous report that is getting so much attention. The Kissinger commission has proposed the creation of what is called the ODAC, the Organization for the Development of Central America. Therefore, a certain amount of aid will be channeled, and it is necessary that this aid reach the sectors that need it, specifically the Salvadoran people, [applause] to prevent what happened in Nicaragua at the time of the earthquake, when international aid wound up you-know-where. You already know where, and I can also answer: It wound up in the pockets of Anastasio Somoza. And those funds, that aid, was intended solely for the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

I have referred to the Kissinger commission report and will now do so again. The Central American crisis is a regional crisis and cannot be resolved piecemeal.

It is vital to El Salvador, and this document states it, that the resolution to our problems not be local but regional. This means that we must join fraternally and communicate our experience to the other countries, so that the problems of each become the problems of the entire region, and so that we seek not only to obtain benefits and privileges, but rather to make the benefits and problems of the region ours in an integrating manner, so that someday the ideal of our forefathers, modernized and renewed, may surge as a vital and important solution, particularly for our people. I think that, despite the outlook and despite everything, as we say, better days lie in store. Thank you very much. [applause]

ARMED FORCES CHIEF ON REBEL WEAPONS, U.S. AID

PA161620 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 84

[News conference given by Colonel Adolfo Oneciforo Blandon, Salvadoran Armed Forces chief of staff, on 14 February at the offices of the Armed Forces General Staff in San Salvador; reporters not identified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Will the Armed Forces support any candidate who wins the elections?

[Blandon] Absolutely affirmative. That is our purpose and our mission. Any presidential candidate who wins the elections will be supported because we must abide by the people's sovereign will. That is the Armed Forces' consensus.

[Question] Some officers in the interior of the country and relatives of Captain Avila claim that his arrest is unconstitutional because there is no proof linking him with the death of the two American lawyers and of [words indistinct]. Could you explain Captain Avila's legal situation?

[Blandon] I understand that Captain Avila was not arrested for the reasons you have just mentioned, but for violating military regulations, which has nothing to do with the cases you have mentioned.

[Question] Earlier today, Colonel Mendez said that Jucuaran is the area being used by Nicaragua to supply the guerrillas in El Salvador. Knowing this, why has the Army not done anything to solve that problem?

[Blandon] We have some limitations, such as those affecting the Navy. Those areas are mainly supplied through maritime routes. There are also air routes, which can be easily used to bring in such supplies, because Nicaragua is so close. Our Air Force has difficulty in controlling that sector, particularly at night.

[Question indistinct]

[Blandon] In the northern part of La Union and Morazan Departments, as well as in the southern part of Usulutan Department, there have been reports about clandestine flights from Nicaragua.

[Question indistinct]

[Blandon] Yes, the pilot named Talavera is under arrest in this country for such activities. He was flying in weapons for the terrorist organizations here.

[Question indistinct]

[Blandon] Further proof is the number of FAL rifles used by the terrorists, some of which have been seized by the Army in various operations. The Salvadoran Armed Forces do not use such rifles.

[Question] Can these weapons be obtained on the black market?

[Blandon] Yes, the terrorists can buy these weapons on the black market.

[Question] Can you confirm the reports of the arrival of new helicopters from the United States and the opening of a new training base by the United States in La Union?

[Blandon] The Salvadoran Army has opened a training base in La Union, not the North Americans.

[Question] But are there U.S. military advisers at that base?

[Blandon] The same groups we have always had. Now, about the helicopters, I hope that the report is true.

[Question] But do you have more concrete information about them?

[Blandon] No, but I repeat, I hope that the report is true.

[Question indistinct]

[Blandon] The main problem with the U.S. Congress in obtaining aid is human rights. You are aware, however, of the efforts being made by the government and the Army command to improve that situation in the country. In fact, the Armed Forces have unanimously approved a declaration whereby all commands have committed themselves to fight violence, whether from the death squads or the leftist groups. Instructions have also been issued on the treatment of prisoners and the abuse of authority. A group is being trained to investigate such cases.

[Question] Have any members of the death squads been arrested?

[Blandon] So far, no one has been specifically accused of belonging to the death squads. What we are doing to discourage such activities is to warn that anyone caught in these criminal activities will be punished with the full weight of the law.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN CABANAS, USULUTAN

PA160420 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Military spokesmen from Cabanas Department have confirmed to Radio Cadena YSKL that fierce clashes have been taking place since this morning in Villa Dolores, Cabanas Department, which has been raided by FMLN guerrillas for the first time this month.

In January, according to the military report, the rebels occupied the town for a few hours without inflicting casualties on the Army, but this morning a large group of leftists raided and surrounded the town, attacking with heavy weapons. The military source added that the outcome of this attack is not yet known. Our source reported in conclusion that air and artillery forces, as well as infantry reinforcements, were urgently deployed in the Villa Dolores area of Cabanas Department.

Meanwhile, fighting in the mountain range of Jucuaran and the Pacific area of Usulutan Department intensified this morning when Army troops carrying out a counterinsurgency operation clashed with the rebels. Military reports said that the leftists were forced to manuever to avoid the Army operation, but in the process they tried to escape along the coastal area, not realizing that Navy forces were expecting them.

At the moment, guerrilla casualties in the area are considerable. Officers from the 6th Brigade headquartered in Usulutan Department have told Radio Cadena YSKL that fighting with the rebels is continuing.

FPL GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACKS

PA160430 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1530 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] According to a communique sent to Radio Station Cadena Sonora, the Clara Ramirez Metropolitan Front [FMCER], a faction of the FPL [Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces], has claimed responsibility for the murder of a national policeman, Carlos Franco Franco, which occurred on the road leading to (Yetuctepeque).

Urban guerrilla members explained that they attacked the police station in the Nascorinas neighborhood, inflicting two casualties on the enemy -- one policeman killed and another injured. A 9-MM (SMK3) rifle and a .38 caliber special revolver were seized by the guerrillas. In the note the guerrillas denied the national police report about wounded civilians, saying that the wounded policeman himself fired indiscriminately while being attacked.

They also said that on the afternoon of 1 February, riflemen attacked and blew up a FENADESAL [Salvadoran National Railway] train near the (El Angel Apopa) sugar mill. The guerrillas also took credit for an attack on a security post of the Development Bank.

The FMCER said in the communique that the objectives of these actions are to repudiate the genocidal operation in Chalatenango Department, to fight the electoral farce, and to pay homage to those who have fallen in action in February. The guerrillas sent fraternal greetings to the heroic Soviet people and to the CPSU on the occasion of Yuriy Andropov's death. The group called this operation: "Heroic Chalatenango, Efren, Joaquin, Juan, Silverio, and Other Companeros Who Fell in Miramundo Hill Are Present."

VENCEREMOS ALLEGES ARMY BRUTALITY IN SAN MIGUEL

PA162031 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos has received a report from the residents of Tongolona farm, in northern San Miguel Department, which reads as follows:

At 1400 on 14 February, a military patrol of the 3d Infantry Brigade entered the Tongolona farm, violently kicking the doors of the townspeople's houses, and arrested Jose Gonzalez, 60; Nicolas Melendez, 60; Candida Gonzalez, 18; Oscar Cruz, 20; and [name indistinct], 28. Witnesses have reported the brutal violence and the beatings that these people suffered at the hands of the soldiers who kidnapped them. The residents of Tongolona farm, San Miguel Department, are demanding the release of the people arrested, and are holding Domingo Monterrosa responsible for their fate.

VENCEREMOS SCORES ATTACKS BY NICARAGUAN FDN

PA162010 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Following the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] attacks on 2 and 3 February against the alleged Radio Venceremos installations and the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] general command allegedly located in Nicaragua, an official spokesman for the FDN has announced that his organization would become a regional force, and that its struggle would be extended to El Salvador and against the FMLN.

This does not surprise us. The whole world is aware of the servile character of the murderous Somozist bands and their role as lackeys and instruments of the U.S. imperialists' interventionist plans for the Central American region. Today the FDN is lending itself to the implementation of the Honduran Army's interventionist plans against our homeland, El Salvador.

The FMLN has repeatedly reported how the Honduran Army has violated our national sovereignty in a desperate attempt to support the battered and demoralized Salvadoran troops. The people of the world are also aware of the shameful manner in which the United States has occupied Honduras and turned it into the general headquarters and arsenal for its warmongering plans against our Central American peoples.

The "Big Pine I and II" maneuvers and today its third phase speak for themselves of the degree of U.S. intervention in Central America and of the future plans of Reagan and his warmongering clique. The Reagan administration's plans have always been very clear. They cannot face a revolutionary victory in El Salvador, and to prevent this they are willing to intervene directly despite the political cost of this action to the Reagan administration.

Before committing his Marines, however, Reagan must seek the support of the puppets who can soften world opinion regarding intervention in El Salvador by foreign forces. First we had [Honduran President] Suazo Cordova and [Honduran Armed Forces Commander] Alvarez Martinez, and now we have their screen, the corrupt Calero Portocarrero and his band of Somozist murderers of the FDN.

We ask ourselves: How can the FDN [word indistinct] forces -- forces that have not been able to achieve a single victory in the dirty war that they are waging, which is directed by the CIA against the Nicaraguan people -- dare speak of wanting to fight the FMLN? How dare they declare war on the heroic FMLN revolutionary army, which day after day is inflicting hard blows on the Armed Forces of the Salvadoran dictatorship, to the point that they have been placed in a situation in which the Pentagon strategists [words indistinct] of seeking foreign forces to try to prevent their complete failure?

The Somozists are fooling themselves. They would only be coming to our Salvadoran soil to finish biting the dust of defeat, the same as they did in Nicaragua on 19 July, and as they continue to do every day as a result of the actions of the Sandinist People's Army and the glorious Sandinist People's Militias. If they dare come here, we will not only confront and defeat them, but will also pursue them to their rear guard in Honduras and will make them pay for their rash action.

However, what the pro-imperialist FDN Somozist puppets are annoucing is not their determination to come and fight. What they are doing is merely laying the groundwork to hide the plans of their U.S. masters for making the Honduran Army clash with our forces, behind the FDN flag.

[Passage indistinct] We warn the FDN, Alvarez Martinez, and his legal adviser [not further identified], and especially the U.S. imperialists themselves that when we say that massive and direct intervention would result in the regionalization and (?generalization) of the war in Central America, we are not just saying this [word indistinct] in propaganda. If you insist on having a regional war, there will be one. We, the FMLN, are not a state with international commitments. We don't have to accept with impunity the criminal and impudent actions of imperialism and its lackeys. Neither will we be so naive as to accept their coarse maneuver of hiding behind the FDN flag when Honduran forces begin operating in our territory.

No. The FMLN will take full military action in Honduras and will feel completely entitled to attack any military target of any country that dares to attack or to violate our national sovereignty, including U.S. targets and targets of the FDN's Somozist bands.

The gringos still believe that they will be able to subdue Central America. They are occupying Honduras today -- thanks to the traitor Alvarez Martinez and his adviser [Salvadoran President] Magana -- which they have managed without paying much for this condemnable action. But they should not believe that the Central American peoples will let them bend their desire for freedom. We are at the end of the 20th century, and the imperialist beast has been mortally wounded. In Central America our peoples will direct a new and [word indistinct] on the heart of Yankee imperialism.

Farabundo and Sandino showed us the way. Nicaragua won, and El Salvador will also win. Central America will be the tomb of Yankee imperialism.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

PA170215 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran today mentioned the existence of mysterious and unusual diplomatic relations between Guatemala and the USSR when he announced that the charge d'affaires of the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington was instructed by the foreign minister to go to the Soviet Embassy in Washington to sign the book of condolences for the death of Yuriy Andropov, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

[Begin Andrade recording] We instructed the charge d'affaires in Washington to go to the Soviet Embassy to sign the book of condolences. As you know, we have diplomatic relations with the USSR, although we do not exchange ambassadors. This situation developed some years ago. The two states decided to establish diplomatic relations, but neither side has considered it advantageous or appropriate to formally set up embassies. [end recording]

ANDRADE, AMBASSADOR DISCUSS BELIZE RECOGNITION

PA162300 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Guatemalan Government -- so much in need of domestic and foreign credibility, as well as of positive government actions -- today seems to be headed toward a crisis caused by mistakes and a lack of aptitude in leading the country. While efforts have been made to minimize the awful mistake of recognizing the authorities in Belize -- a territory that Guatemala cannot grant juridical recognition to as a state, although this could happen through diplomatic inability -- violence is continuing its inexorable' growth while officials directly charged with preventing it, or in any case of struggling against it, are offering only poor explanations.

In the first case -- that of Belize -- there has been an unpardonable error by a ministry that was the only one which had so far escaped criticism for poor performance. The Foreign Ministry, if it has not been a center of efficiency so far, has made few errors, and those were in the designation of Guatemalan ambassadors abroad and in the maintenance of an outdated diplomatic structure when the country is suffering from the worst foreign image crisis in its history.

When Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran was named the new foreign minister following the fall of the Rios Montt regime, there was some anxiety because the foreign minister was attributed with qualities of extreme political wisdom on the basis of a real or fictitious link with ranking military leaders for some 15 years. Many Army generals and former presidents are among the minister's close friends. In addition to the anxiety he generated, there was also a ray of hope, because for many, many years our country had not had intelligent diplomatic guidance.

It was expected that changes would be made that would adjust the nation's foreign relations to the current demands, particularly taking into consideration the grave deterioration of Guatemala's image abroad. However, Guatemala persists in maintaining the dense, outdated, and pernicious structure of the Foreign Ministry, fed of course with new faces in the embassies, but these of very doubtful capabilities.

The case of the Guatemalan ambassador to Washington is a perfect example. In the beginning, as the "Here's the World" newscast stated at the time, the designation of Federico Fahsen was criticized because he had everything except diplomatic experience.

However, weeks after being named and installed as the new Guatemalan ambassador to the United States, Fahsen has given us much to talk about, this time because of the unfortunate, implicit recognition of the existence of Belize which -- officially accepted or not -- constitutes a new error in the unfortunate chain of mistakes that have caused Guatemala to lose somewhat more than 20 percent of its legitimate territory. Today, in an effort to minimize the mistake, Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran used old stories such as those used by the infamous former officials of the MLN [National Liberation Movement], the PID [Democratic Independent Party], or the PR [Revolutionary Party] when they were in power, attributing censure to interested sectors in an effort to diminish the importance of their critics whom they describe as interested parties, forgetting of course that all Guatemalans should be very interested in the management of public affairs.

[Begin recording] [Andrade Diaz-Duran] The political parties obviously have the power to make petitions, like any citizen, and we respect their points of view. I think that in this affair there has been an effort to create a storm in a glass of water, especially since there has been no discussion of funds, there is no problem of [word indistinct]. There was a simple meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Washington, so we do not give this the importance that some interested sectors have. [end recording]

The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry never reported that one of our ambassadors had met with the Belizean ambassador to the United States. We learned this from an AP dispatch datelined Belmopan. The Foreign Ministry did not even say that Ambassador Fahsen was in Guatemala. It was not until today, after some telephone calls to Washington, that the "Here's the World" newscast learned that Fahsen was here. Our reporters, as we noted earlier today, found Fahsen, who talked about the subject, indicating that everything he did had the Foreign Ministry's approval. This would place the blame for making the big mistake of granting implicit recognition to the Belizean Government on the National Palace.

[Begin recording] [Fahsen] The Foreign Ministry is always informed of everything. In this case, the meeting was held to receive a report on oil explorations to be carried out.

[Unidentified reporter] We have been informed that you met with Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran. Did you talk about this?

[Fahsen] Yes, but not very much. We will meet again and possibly go over all the issues that concern us.

[Reporter] The National Liberation Party has suggested that you should be dismissed. What are your comments?

[Fahsen] According to the democratic freedom we enjoy in Guatemala, everyone has the right to express his views. However, I was appointed by the head of state as Guatemalan ambassador to the United States, and he is the one to decide my fate. The moment I was appointed and left for Washington in December, it was agreed at the Foreign Ministry that after 2 and 1/2 months I would return to report about what had been accomplished. As you will recall, when I left relations between Guatemala and the United States were, let us say, somewhat cold because aid to Guatemala had been suspended by the U.S. Congress.

We had to resume the dialogue. This has been possible during the past 2 and 1/2 months, and now I am reporting the results of what has been done to the Foreign Ministry.

[Reporter] Your presence in Guatemala has been interpreted as an action by your superiors, who called you back to find out about your meeting with the Belizean ambassador. Guatemalan circles have interpreted this as tacit recognition on your part of the Belizean Government, a government that Guatemalan does not recognize.

[Fahsen] As I said before, I am here to report what has been accomplished during the past 2 and 1/2 months. It has nothing to do with that other matter. [end recording]

FAR CLAIMS ACTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT TROOPS

PA160443 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 42

[Text] The Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, has claimed to have sabotaged three Army vehicles. The FAR has sent a bulletin to the media in this capital, reporting that it carried out two ambushes and one sabotage in Peten Department.

At 1200 on 8 February, a FAR unit ambushed three Army trucks full of soldiers at km 21, between Flores and Poptun. One of the trucks was destroyed by a mine. Two other vehicles that were also transporting troops immediately stopped and were attacked by the rebels, the bulletin says. It also reports that a half hour later another truck arrived with more troops and that a Pilatus plane and a helicopter flew over the area. The exact number of government casualties is not known.

At 1700 on the same day, another FAR unit harassed a jeep and two trucks transporting troops near the San Francisco crossroad, between Flores and Poptun. There were casualties in the enemy's ranks, according to the bulletin.

On 10 February at km 30 of the same highway, a guerrilla group destroyed a truck transporting merchandise.

KIDNAPPERS RELEASE PRENSA LIBRE UNION LEADER

PA162227 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Sergio Aldana Galvani, of the newspaper PRENSA LIBRE (?labor union), was released by his kidnappers tonight. Aldana Galvani had been held captive since last Saturday, when armed men intercepted him on 18th Street, between the 11th and 12th Avenues of Area 1. It is reported that the union leader is safe and sound and rejoined his family tonight.

HONDURAS

NICARAGUAN ENVOY ON PRISONERS, REFUGEES

PA161948 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 15 Feb 84 p 42

[Text] Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras Edwin Zablah yesterday announced that each of the two countries has held prisoners from the other since 1980.

He said that while it is true that relations between the two nations are difficult, these relations will improve in the next few days. Zablah yesterday met with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, with whom he discussed an exchange of prisoners. "We are going to inform Managua about the concerns of the Honduran foreign secretary. I believe that things are on the right track, and that soon we will succeed," the ambassador said.

Short Term

The ambassador was asked whether it is true that there are Hondurans who have been under arrest in Managua since 1980. He answered: "Yes, just as there have been Nicaraguans under arrest in this country since 1980. The negotiations are aimed at securing an exchange of prisoners shortly."

The diplomat did not want to provide further details, so as not to harm negotiations in this regard.

On his government's decision to send an official mission to Honduras to explain to the Miskito refugees the significance of Managua's amnesty decree, Zablah said: "This has been done in Costa Rica on several occasions, and the Costa Ricans have cooperated. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has also cooperated."

Reconsideration

"I trust that the Honduran Government will reconsider its decision and allow the visit by the delegation, whose only objective is to clear up any doubts that the Miskitos may have regarding the amnesty decree, which because of their position they cannot express. This way there would be guarantees for a voluntary repatriation, while respect for the work of the UNHCR and Honduras' National Commission for Refugees would be maintained," the diplomat said.

Regarding relations between Honduras and Nicaragua, the diplomat said: "While it is true that relations are somewhat difficult, I have faith and complete trust that these relations are improving."

Cuban Exile

The ambassador was asked whether his government has granted a safe-conduct to the Cuban who had been working as adviser of the Sandinist People's Militia and who sought asylum in the Honduran Embassy in Managua. Zablah said he did not have any information on this.

UNHCR AGREES WITH RELOCATION OF SALVADORANS

PA162210 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa (IPS) -- Salvadoran refugees who refuse to be relocated in Honduras will have to go back to El Salvador, (Warner Platter), the chief of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, said yesterday.

The UN official supported the decision of the Honduran Government, which cited reasons of national security to order the transfer of almost 15,000 Salvadoran refugees from camps located near the Salvadoran border to a site further inside Honduras.

The site chosen for the relocation of the Salvadorans is near the city of Olanchito, approximately 600 km from the border.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ON COLOMBIA DISPUTE, U.S. RELATIONS

PA162004 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota -- Nicaragua has accused the United States of creating a split with Colombia and of increasing distrust between the two countries about San Andres and Providencia. Commander Daniel Ortega, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, did not say during a CARACOL interview if his country insists on its claim of sovereignty over the archipelago. He did say that his government's objectives lie not in obtaining more territory, but in facing the economic and social difficulties that are a part of the just struggle for improved living conditions for Third World countries.

The Sandinist commander commented that the publication of a 1982 pamphlet in which San Andres and Providencia are reported to be part of Zelaya Department has suddenly become news. Asked if Nicaragua insists on claiming the archipelago, Ortega said that his country is interested in finding common topics with other Latin American countries to help face their mutual problems.

The Nicaraguan pamphlet on San Andres, which was published in 1982, caused the Colombian Foreign Ministry to send a note to Nicaragua requesting an explanation. It also indicated that the 1928 Barcenas-Esguerra Treaty ruled in favor of Colombia in regard to sovereignty over the archipelago.

Commander Ortega said that tension in Central America is being aggravated by U.S. intervention. Nevertheless, he again suggested the initiation of serious and constructive talks with the U.S. Government.

Ortega said that contacts with some Reagan administration members have not represented real progress toward alleviating tension. The Sandinist leader referred to the need for the United States to sign a non-aggression agreement to halt the threat of intervention. He also stated that Honduras, manipulated by the Reagan administration, has refused to accept a proposal for a summit meeting on peace to include President Roberto Suazo, the Honduran Armed Forces General Staff, and the Sandinist leaders. Ortega indicated that the United States prevents Honduras from accepting the proposal.

Commander Ortega said that Nicaragua has the manpower and materiel to face an imperialist aggression.

He highly praised the Contadora Group's efforts and those of Colombian President Belisario Betancur to prevent a war in Central America. Ortega reiterated his support for the four countries committed to this effort.

Nicaragua has said that it will not unilaterally negotiate the departure of foreign military advisers. It asked the United States to adopt a realistic stance on the issue, which is that military bases should not be established in the region. Commander Ortega insisted on the need to stop the military maneuvers, such as those that the United States and Honduras are carrying out along the Nicaraguan border.

Ortega said that Nicaragua is willing to negotiate peace with the United States, which is responsible for the state of tension, but that it will not take unilateral steps because Nicaragua's first priority is the defense of its values, its revolution, and its dignity.

The Sandinist commander said that they are receiving a larger quantity of arms, mostly donations, but that this aid is sent by different regimes with different ideologies.

In relation to statements by George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, on the Nicaraguan process, Commander Ortega said that they are not necessarily conciliatory, and are not true, because Nicaragua has shown willingness to hold a dialogue, but the United States has not. He said that the United States wants to reactivate the moribund Central American Defense Council, CONDECA, which operates as a regional military pact in order to force an armed intervention against Nicaragua, just as the United States has used several Caribbean countries to occupy Grenada with U.S. Armed Forces.

Ortega asserted that CONDECA's current decisions lack legal validity because they have not been supported by the area's leaders and because Nicaragua has not been invited to participate, although Nicaragua has not and will not neglect the organization.

AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO DISCUSSES C. A. SITUATION

FL160300 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2019 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaraguan Ambassador to Mexico Mauricio Cuadra said here today that elections in his country depend on the United States because if Nicaragua is invaded by the United States, elections will have to be postponed until the Nicaraguans defeat the invaders.

The diplomat also accused Washington of trying to disrupt the Nicaraguan elections by creating a hostile situation, which would also hinder the Contadora Group's progress toward peace in the region. Cuadra made these statements at a press conference scheduled to announce the list of activities that will be held in Managua and around the world to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Augusto Cesar Sandino's death.

Cuadra added: We demand that the United States leave us alone in order to hold elections, which will be officially announced on 21 February, the anniversary of the death of the Nicaraguan revolutionary leader.

Cuadra described as dangerous the U.S. actions aimed at discrediting the Nicaraguan elections through alleged frauds and obstacles that are being placed on the opposition. He added that the United States would like it to look as if elections were being held as a result of military pressures in order to justify its destabilization influence in Central America.

Cuadra said that the Sandinist leaders are determined to proceed with the elections, which will fulfill the promise made to the Nicaraguan people in 1979, but warned that in an extreme case, such as war, it is impossible to carry out anything.

It was announced that at the ceremonies on the anniversary of Sandino's death on 25 February, the organization Hands Off Nicaragua will present a music festival at Mexico City's National Auditorium in the presence of Commander Omar Cabezas Lacayo, a member of the general staff of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry.

It was also announced that the university in the State of Puebla has decreed this year to be the Year of Sandino and that the department of political science of the National Autonomous University of Mexico will hold lectures on Sandino on 23 February. A general rally will be held at Managua's Plaza of the Revolution on 21 February in memory of the leader.

PANAMANIAN CANDIDATE ESQUIVEL VISITS BORGE

PA162032 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 10

[Text] Dr Jose Renan Esquivel, presidential candidate of the United People's Electoral Front of Panama, yesterday visited Commander Tomas Borge Martinez at the Interior Ministry office. He was accompanied by two members of his party and Nicaraguan Government officials. Dr Esquivel outlined his platform, which includes the need for the Panamanian people to achieve democracy, economic reorganization, perfection of Panamanian sovereignty, and a guarantee of the duties and rights of the people.

NUNEZ TELLEZ ON ELECTORAL COUNCIL DUTIES

PA170019 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council will begin its work the second week of March, according to the president of the State Council, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez. The Supreme Electoral Council will be charged with directing the electoral process in conformity with the electoral law to be approved by the council. In an interview with this station, Commander Nunez Tellez said:

[Begin recording] One of the council's tasks will be to complete the working schedule to be presented to the political parties. It will contain the date for electoral registration and the dates for the political parties' assemblies to ratify their organizations and leadership and to nominate and register their candidates.

Once the Electoral Council has this information, it will announce publicly which parties and candidates have been registered. Then the electoral authorities will call on the Nicaraguan people to vote, establishing the official dates for opening and closing the electoral campaign. Therefore, the Electoral Council will have to be organized rapidly so that it can proceed to promote these steps without delay, working without interruption, in order to be prepared to undertake the elections properly. [end recording]

PARTY LEADERS SPEAK AT ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

PA152227 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Feb 84

["Political Debates" roundtable with Carlos Cuadra and Isidro Tellez of the Marxist-Leninist Peoples Action Movement, MAP-ML; Dr Gustavo Tablada of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, FPR; Cesar Delgadillo Machado of the Popular Social Christian Party PPSC; Eduardo Coronado Perez of the Independent Liberal Party; (Abel Flaver) of the Socialist Party; and Reinaldo Payan of the FSLN; on 13 February in Managua -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Tellez] Good evening, radio listeners of Nicaragua. Our party, the MAP-ML, greets you and at the same time wishes to explain to you the MAP-ML's principles.

Our party has been asking the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction for State Council membership for ourselves and for the Workers Front, which was expelled in 1980.

Our party has assumed the historic task of struggling for the construction of a socialist society. We have maintained a firm position throughout our struggle, so our party and the labor class cannot find any point of agreement with the parties of the

We have endorsed the political parties bill and the electoral bill, and our party will maintain the same position during the elections.

[Payan] The MAP-ML has every right to speak up as a party and to submit its views. However, we would like to know more about the petitions submitted by the Workers Front and the MAP-ML.

[Cuadra] We know perfectly well the legal requirements stipulated in the political parties law through which we can take the necessary legal action to obtain recognition of the MAP-ML and its admission to the State Council. All the Nicaraguan political parties have been granted the right to membership in the State Council without complying with the formal requirements established in the law. That right, that privilege, has not been granted to the MAP-ML. We are still awaiting an answer from the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the State Council as to why we have been denied this right, which has been granted to others through a special decree which, by the way, even amended the Fundamental Statute. Not only that, but an amendment to the Fundamental Statute, to the Constitution, also had to be made to expel the Workers Front from the State Council in 1980.

So, to recapitulate the efforts that we have made, we should begin by saying that we have constantly been demanding the reinstatement of the Workers Front on the State Council. Many letters have been sent to the State Council itself and to the Government Junta, but no effective response has been received to date.

Secondly, the MAP-ML has been engaged in a permanent campaign to gain admission to the State Council, and, following the decree by which the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party [PSD] were admitted, the MAP-ML sent a letter to the Government Junta and to the State Council Board to ask for an audience to determine the reason the MAP-ML has not been included on the State Council. We are still awaiting a response to these telegrams.

We have also approached some members of the FSLN, and most of them have said what Companero Payan said today, that we are entitled to representation and have the right to fight for it. However, none of them, like Companero Payan tonight, has explained the political reasons for not granting us this privilege that has been given to other parties without meeting the requirements stipulated by law.

Another important activity, perhaps the most important, as a matter of fact, is our current nationwide campaign to get our people, the Nicaraguan workers, to demand the reincorporation of our party. Our campaign has covered several departments, fundamentally Managua, where we have been distributing a communique to report the refusal to include the MAP-ML on the State Council. The response has been extraordinarily positive, though we have met with some sectarian attempts to deny us the right to struggle for inclusion on the State Council.

Curiously, on one of the days when we had an incident in Managua, the PSD -- which is not represented here tonight -- published a small note in LA PRENSA denying that it had been present at the State Council and noting that it is not interested in being part of the State Council, even though the junta has freely granted it this right.

We also have soemthing to say about DIARIO EL PUEBLO. We wish to point out that since the victory of the revolution our party has been consistently denied the right to take part in political activities. There have been three such instances. The first instance was the exclusion of the Workers Front from the State Council. The second was the closing of DIARIO EL PUEBLO, and the third was the refusal to include the MAP-ML in the State Council. This persistent refusal is a source of concern to us, because we have not had a clear response as to the political reasons for depriving our Marxist-Leninist MAP-ML of its political and democratic rights.

Regarding the suit filed against the editors of DIARIO EL PUEBLO, we wish to point out that the Supreme Court dismissed the suit and ordered the judge -- who, if memory serves correctly, was the 1st District judge -- to return the newspaper's machinery and other property. Three years after the issuance of the order by the Supreme Court and the judge's order to the police, not all of this property has been returned. And we wish to note that there is no legal impediment to DIARIO EL PUEBLO's circulation. Yet, even though there is no legal impediment, the Media Directorate and the government's policies have prevented the newspaper from circulating.

[Delgadillo] We wish to assert tonight that we agree that the companeros of the MAP-ML should continue with their efforts to join the State Council and the other political activities. Whether a leftist party and a rightist party have been admitted to the State Council, and whether they are going to be given a chance when the opportunity arises is no concern of ours. The only thing that can determine whether a party will exist or not is the election.

Now, returning to our previous discussion tonight about the law on elections, the PPSC will defend the military's right to vote in the second plenum debate.

We are also going to make a proposal regarding religious sectors. As we all know, canon law bans the Catholic clergy from running for elective office. However, the Protestants are not subject to such a ban, and we are therefore going to propose a distinction concerning them in the electoral law, because they can indeed run for office.

[Coronado] My party, which is a democratic and revolutionary organization, is aware that any political organization that has a well-organized national structure and has some edict giving it the status of a party is perfectly entitled to demand admission to the State Council as a political party. If the MAP-ML meets these requirements, I think it is perfectly right in demanding admission to the State Council as a party.

Now, I understand that the matter is a bit complicated -- and I think that this is why the authorities charged with admitting the MAP-ML are being careful. There are already several parties of a Marxist-Leninist leaning on the State Council, such as the PSC [Social Christian Party], the Communist Party of Nicaragua, and now the MAP-ML. So there is this small obstacle, but I think that there can be a solution.

[Unidentified moderator] It is now exactly 2110, and at this point in "Political Debates" we would like to briefy recount some political events that have become landmarks in the electoral process thus far.

We recall the great confusion that was caused Saturday, February 4, by the commission that drafted the electoral bill when it announced that it would not submit the bill to the State Council until the magnitude of the air raids against Nicaragua had been determined, until Honduras had explained them, and until Nicaraguans had the peace and quiet necessary to carry out their political tasks.

The political situation became more suspenseful on Monday, February 6, when the Government Junta issued a new communique stating that the bill would be submitted to the State Council and that the council would fulfill the mandate that it has received from the Government Junta.

On Thursday Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, said that the FSLN will relinquish power if it loses the elections in 1985.

How is the electoral process developing in Nicaragua? What is the outlook? How do the political leaders of the Revolutionary Patriotic Front [FPR] view it? Would the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board and the PSD, which regretfully is not here tonight, like to answer this question? And what is the view, too, of the MAP-ML leaders, who are our special guests tonight? We would like to listen first to Companero Payan, representative of the FSLN.

[Payan] Truly, the commission that was working on the electoral bill stated its position in regard to the air raids on Chinandega and part of Cosiguina by a squadron of planes from Honduras, in which three members of the Sandinist People's Army and three militiamen were killed. The commission felt that it should bolster the protest and position of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in demanding an explanation from the Honduran Government.

Therefore, it did not submit the bill on the scheduled day but on the next day, as it felt that this popular process would be attacked and that the attacks and aggression would not stop, despite the willingness of the Government of National Reconstruction and the FSLN to carry it out.

On the contrary, we believe that following the thwarting of an overall aggressive plan -- which has cost the FSLN over (?2,000) casualties -- the acts of aggression will continue. We feel that these provocations and attacks are aimed at blocking the progress which has already been made in the electoral process. Suspending it would mean submitting to the provocations and playing into the strategy of imperialism and the enemies of the revolution, which is to thwart the electoral process. There is a willingness to develop this process, but not at the expense of neglecting the defense of the revolution, which is a priority task.

This is the purpose of the new laws under discussion, the amendments to the Fundamental Statute and this electoral bill, by a commission in consultation with the political parties, including the MAP-ML, which will outline its position at a meeting to be held on Wednesday. [Words indistinct] a party that is not represented in the State Council is not being excluded, which shows the commission's interest in learning of its viewpoints on the electoral bill.

These activities of the State Council are aimed at continuing with the existing political will, with the elections, but without neglecting the work of defense [words indistinct] or playing the game of the enemies, who would try to hinder or to prevent these elections. They will be doing everything possible to prevent the elections.

There are already (?pressures) from the [name indistinct] the [Ramiro Sacasa] Coordinating Board, and the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] at an international level. Despite the opening that has already been made and the easing of the curbs on the press -- which one can see are now practically nonexistent -- they are trying to [word indistinct] all that has been done.

[Moderator] What will happen if the opposition abstains? Will the election retain the legitimacy that is sought for it? What does (Abel Flaver) of the Socialist Party say about this?

[Flaver] We think that full guarantees are bing established in Nicaragua to permit effective, popular, and democratic participation by all of the country's political organizations, and, therefore, we feel that there must be such guarantees [sentence as heard].

Answering Companero Fredie Rostran's question about what would happen if the rightist organizations withdrew from the electoral process, we believe that if they withdraw before or during the election, if they abstain from participating in the campaign and the election when it is publicly known here and abroad that there are full guarantees -- which do not exist in countries that they defend -- they will commit political suicide.

As to whether this will detract from the legitimacy of the elections, it is really most important that all political organizations participate. However, if they decide with a senseless, impolitic attitude not to participate, the majority vote of Nicaraguans will give legitimacy to this election, which will occur in our country for the first time.

Therefore, we feel that if these parties decide to withdraw from the elections, they will not only be playing the game of the imperialists, but will lose any right they might have to participate broadly and effectively in the political activities of our country in the future. Therefore, we feel this would be political suicide.

[Moderator] What does Isidro Tellez have to say about the current course of the electoral process?

[Tellez] Our party has repeatedly raised before the commission, as Companero Payan of the State Council has said, its concern over the opening of an electoral process in our country. We have said that since 19 July [1979], Yankee imperialism, the counter-revolutionary bands, and the local bourgeoisie have been conducting a systematic campaign against the revolutionary process. We understand that with its support from the international bourgeoisie and imperialism, the bourgeoisie has been asking and struggling for political space in this country to carry out its activities against this revolutionary process.

Last year our people carried out a [word indistinct] in the face of the possibility of intervention by Yankee imperialism with its own troops. In that regard, our party stressed that we should launch a revolutionary activity as a priority task to get the working class, our people, to join the defense. And we stressed that we did not agree with beginning an electoral process in our country because we were at war. And this situation of undeclared war by North American imperialism still exists in our country.

The bourgeoisie is struggling for political space, and we [word indistinct] this political space [words indistinct] to yield this space in Nicaragua. In this regard, we think that the announcement of suspending the discussion of the electoral bill was well-advised because it was an effort to avoid diverting attention from the preparations for defense by our people, the EPS, the militias, the reserve battalions, and the youth.

However, the electoral process has continued, and we think that this is quite dangerous in view of the delicate situation in our country. We contend that we must stop and thoroughly review events in Nicaragua. We feel that an election in Nicaragua is not the most advisable course. Moreover, we believe that the intention of holding elections is not to place the revolutionary process at stake.

We feel that the revolution was waged by these people -- the working class, the peasants. We feel there can be a process of institutionalizing the participation of the workers, the peasants, and the revolutionary youth. We feel that the intention here is not, as we have argued, to institutionalize the participation of bourgeois parties, which not only can play but are playing the game of international reaction and are supporting it.

In this regard, our party understands that the PSD and the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board have been arguing through the daily newspaper LA PRENSA that a dialogue must be opened in Nicaragua with those who are engaged in counterrevolutionary activities, those who have murdered thousands of our companeros, of this people's revolutionary companeros. There is a sense of honor in this country, and blood has been shed here. Therefore, we should call a halt and ask ourselves whether we want to hold elections involving parties that are trying to open an internal political front to set the conditions for intervention in our country.

Also, the bourgeois parties contend that the youth 16-18 years old cannot vote in Nicaragua. We feel that it was the youth who kicked Somoza out of this country, and that they have won the right to vote.

[Moderator] Reynaldo Payan, of the FSLN.

[Payan] Well, regarding what was said about freedom of press in Nicaragua, many parties and organizations believe there is no freedom of expression here. It is appropriate to recall that we are still in a state of emergency. When there is information on military aspects of our defense or on our economic situation, this information should be issued by authorized officials. I said that [words indistinct] freedom of information so that [words indistinct] learn about the news and the information that is published by the newspaper LA PRENSA, and even through this "Political Debates" program. It is true that we have yet to discuss a law for the news media. We know there are a certain number of [word indistinct] newscasts that are not being broadcast until we approve this law of national interest, which is also part of the laws that will [word indistinct] the electoral process. [passage indistinct] The people must be a little more flexible and show that they trust the FSLN's political opening by participating in the elections.

[Moderator] Cesar Delgadillo Machado, secretary general of the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], and Eduardo Coronado Perez, of the Independent Liberal Party, will be the last speakers on tonight's "Political Debates" program.

[Machado] Well, we members of the PPSC want to state clearly that now that we have entered the final phase of the electoral process there must be a complete opening of all the communications and news media -- the press, radio, and television -- because the revolutionary process is clearly unafraid of the reactionary sectors or of anyone who seeks a return to the past. These sectors should end their sad, deplorable actions, because they were completely rejected on 19 July 1979.

We would consider it highly significant [significativo] if, for example, the extreme right parties did not participate in the revolutionary process. However, they have always participated, arguing that they want elections. Now that the elections are coming, they are saying there are no guarantees for these elections. Now then, what do they want? What are their intentions? I think they have already chosen sides and are increasingly supporting the counterrevolution. If they do not participate in the election, it will clearly prove that they are waiting for the counterrevolution's arrival in Nicaragua to help it take over. They could never take over through elections, because they already know that they lack social support in this country.

Also, we believe that these parties' nonparticipation would be equivalent to political death. The revolutionary process will not stop simply because these small parties decide not to participate. These parties are being increasingly rejected by all the Nicaraguans. The revolutionary process' victory will be determined by the number of votes it receives in the election.

[Coronado] The Independent Liberal Party believes that the electoral process, aside from being an urgent need in our country, is a factor of detente in our internal conflicts. It is also, to a certain extent, a factor of [word indistinct] international level. I understand that the eyes and ears of the world are on the revolution and the developments taking place in this country. My party and I believe the election should be the expression of the people's will, so that it becomes an example of honesty and purity for Latin America and the world. [20-second break in transmission] ...activities with vigor, energy and enthusiasm. We believe that these laws are being reviewed at the State Council in good faith, and we trust that -- with the participation of all the parties that show good will -- the process will continue in the most orderly fasion. Each party should contribute its best so that these laws benefit our electoral process.

Regarding the implementation of the electoral process, all the parties should have access to enough material means and economic resources to develop an organized electoral campaign. This would be a guarantee for all the political parties that wish to participate in the electoral process. We believe that if we follow these measures, there will be no reason, either here or abroad, to doubt the election.

DETAINED FDN MEMBERS REVEAL 'TERRORIST PLAN'

PA150343 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] A vast terrorist plan has been uncovered with the capture of counterrevolutionaries Manuel Retanco and Isidro Moran, who admitted their membership in the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] and confessed that they were trained in Honduras by Yankee INSTRUCTORS, INCLUDING Billy Jesse, (DOEL), (Six Charles), AND (2323).

The missions that they were to carry out included the destruction of the San Antonio and German Pomares sugar mills, and of other economic targets in Region 2. Timely action by the Interior Ministry prevented the implementation of these criminal plans.

Ten other individuals were captured with Betanco and Moran. They were all part of a network that was to operate in different areas of Chinandega and Leon Departments. The arrested counterrevolutionaries confessed that they had also planned to burn cotton harvesters and destroy bridges in an effort to obstruct Nicaragua's economic development.

The counterrevolutionaries, who will be turned over to the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals, were presented to the local and international press yesterday by Guerrilla Commander David Blanco, Interior Ministry official responsible for Region 2.

CASTRO MEETS WITH WORLD LEADERS IN MOSCOW

Talks to Soviet Minister

FL161252 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Top Cuban leader Fidel Castro had a fraternal meeting in Moscow with Marshall of the USSR Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of defense. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed, especially the close cooperation existing between the Soviet and Cuban Armed Forces.

Also present at the meeting were Carlos Rafael Rodriquez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Jesus Montane and Roberto Veiga, alternate members of the Politburo; and Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat and Cuban ambassador to the USSR.

Meets Mozambican, Malagasy Leaders

FL161620 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] A fraternal meeting has been held in Moscow between the delegations headed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Samora Machel, president of Mozambique and the Frelimo Party. In a cordial atmosphere, the delegations examined various problems in the current international situation, as well as other matters of mutual interest concerning bilateral relations.

Fidel also met with Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and secretary general of the Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution. They discussed several matters, including the pressing economic problems of the less developed countries and aspects of Cuban-Malagasy relations.

Meets With 'Arafat

FL161744 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, has met in the Soviet capital with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat and Cuban ambassador to the Soviet Union, also participated in the talks. During the meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, they discussed the situation in the Middle East and other matters of common interest.

CASTRO STOPS IN MADRID, MET BY SPAIN'S GONZALEZ

FL151218 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1203 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz has arrived in Madrid, Spain, for a brief refueling stopover. He was received by the prime minister of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzalez.

Reportage on Activities

For reportage on Fidel Castro's unexpected stopover in Madrid, including his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and reports on his activities, see the Spain section of the 17 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

Returns From Trip

PA171211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0500 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Havana, 16 Feb (EFE) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro returned to Havana late this evening, after attending the funeral of Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov in Moscow and making a 5-hour technical stopover in Madrid.

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, arrived via the same airplane enroute to Nicaragua.

Fidel Castro was welcomed at the airport by his brother Raul Castro, minister of the Cuban Armed Forces and second in command in the Cuban hierarchy.

The Cuban President's 5-hour technical stopover in Madrid was his first visit to Spain. During the brief stopover, Castro and Daniel Ortega met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at Moncloa Palace.

CASTRO THANKS BULGARIA FOR ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

AU161159 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 15 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, and Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, have received a telegram from Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, in which he expresses his gratitude to the Bulgarian leaders, the BCP, the Bulgarian Government, and the Bulgarian people for the cordial, fraternal congratulations conveyed to him on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

UN COMMITTEE DELEGATE ON USE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY

FL170045 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] United Nations -- Cuba has stated that international cooperation is one of the conditions needed for the progress of science and space technology. Cuban delegate (Luis Ortega) spoke before the Subcommittee on Scientific and Technical Affairs of the Committee on the Use of Space for Peaceful Purposes and stressed that this is an indispensable premise for the possible participation of developing countries in this sphere.

SEVENTH ECONOMIC CONFERENCE WITH JAPAN ENDS

FL162325 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The Seventh Bilateral Economic Conference between Cuba and Japan ended in Tokyo today after 3 days in session. This conference plays an important role in the promotion of trade and cooperation between the two countries.

The forum's protocol expressed satisfaction over the increasing entry of Cuban sugar and sea products into the Japanese market. It added that an agreement was reached to conduct a thorough study of bilateral cooperation in scientific and technical matters and on the exchange of information in this field.

The Cuban delegation asked for support from Japanese delegates in persuading Tokyo officials to arrange negotiations for new international sugar agreement. The need for the request was recognized.

ECUADORAN COURT DELEGATION MEETS OFFICIALS

FL170215 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The members of the Ecuadoran Supreme Court delegation visiting our country have paid a visit to the Attorney General's Office, where they were received by Attorney General Idalberto Ladron de Guevara Quintana and other officials of that office.

The delegation of Ecuadoran judges, headed by Supreme Court President Carlos Pozo Montes de Oca, expressed interest in the structure and operation of our Attorney General's Office, and were given a thorough explanation of it. Dr Raul Amaro Salup, president of the Supreme People's Tribunal, also participated in the meeting.

The Ecuadoreans will also visit several judicial institutions and will meet with other judicial officials.

TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY PCC, PCP

For the Lisbon AVANTE! "text" of the joint communique issued by the PCC and the Portuguese Communist Party, PCP, on the visit to Cuba by a PCP delegation led by Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal 17-22 January 1984, see the Portugal section of the 16 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

FMC NATIONAL MEETING BEGINS 16 FEBRUARY

FL162300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] A national meeting of the ideological orientation, organization, and finance sectors of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], which will include an analysis of the work done in 1983, today began in our capital at the Fe del Valle National Cadre School.

The main report of the meeting concerns the most important successes of that period, as well as the shortcomings which still prevail and must be eradicated. The growing maturity in the ideological work as evidenced in the rank and file and in the quality of the political circles promoted by the FMC, ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], and the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] were prominent aspects mentioned in this report.

One of the commitments of those attending the FMC national meeting is to assess the FMC goals to pay homage to the 25th anniversary of the revolution and to greet the 4th FMC Congress.

At the meeting on organization, FMC Secretary General Dora Carcano reported that more than 83 percent of the country's adult women are members of the FMC, which has more than 2 million affiliates. She said that 40 percent of these women are working, 43 percent are housewifes, 13 percent are students, and approximately 3 percent are retirees. [figures as heard]

At the meeting on ideological work, Yolanda Ferrer of the FMC National Secretariat reported on the results of the FMC, CDR, and ANAP study circles and on an increase in the solidarity movement, which has been extended to more than 70 countries.

URUGUAYAN WORKERS' BID FOR DEMOCRACY VIEWED

PA170012 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 14 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The first secretary of the Communist Party of Uruguay, Rodney Arismendi, recently told the GDR daily NEUES DEUTSCHLAND of the need for joint action by all the popular forces of the country to overthrow the fascist regime. The Uruguayan communist leader stressed that his party will always be at the front line in the struggle for the return of democracy in his country.

In this battle for democracy, thousands of citizens of the homeland of Jose Artigas have already been imprisoned, savagely tortured, or are missing. The promise of the military dictatorship to hold general elections on 25 November is the result of the pressure by the people who, through several demonstrations, have repudiated the fascist regime headed by General Gregorio Alvarez.

In view of this constant struggle for the return of democracy, the military sectors consider the special police units insufficient to repress the people. They need troops to keep the people at bay with sticks, blackjacks, and other antiriot devices.

The general strike called by the plenary meeting of Uruguayan labor unions early last January was a significant advance on the path toward the end of repression, the release of political prisoners, and the return of democracy. On that occasion the fascist regime applied the same measures of repression established after the military coup of 1973, but the people took to the streets to protest such repressive measures.

The Army decision to dissolve the workers' plenary meeting was met with strong protests throughout Montevideo. The national strike was successful; 90 percent of the nation's activities were paralyzed, according to reliable estimates.

There is no doubt that the country of Jose Artigas is going through moments of great social agitation, where the struggle provoked by the absence of freedom and human rights increases daily. However, the fascist forces, the more aggressive circles, and the elements closely related to the U.S. Pentagon and the CIA are trying to check the Uruguayan popular movement and prevent a change of government. This is confirmed by recent charges filed by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in a communique published in Brussels, Belgium, accusing the Uruguayan Army of preparing a repressive plan against the opposition and labor organizations, calling for the arrest of approximately 300 persons, including the leaders of the workers' plenary meeting.

On 4 February, over 150 Uruguayans met in front of Notre Dame Cathedral, in Paris, to repudiate the military regime and express their solidarity with the Uruguayan workers' union plenary meeting. They demanded the return of labor and political freedoms and the release of political prisoners, and scored press censorship in their country.

The battle for freedom and democracy will continue in Uruguay until the objectives for which thousands of Uruguayans have already given their lives are attained.

STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON MURDERS IN EL SALVADOR

FL170035 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] A secret report prepared by the U.S. State Department has noted that Salvadoran Defense Minister Eugenio Vides Casanova participated in the cover-up of the murders of four U.S. nuns in San Salvador.

According to this document, a result of an investigation conducted by a former U.S. federal judge, the Salvadoran officials covered up these murders which were committed in 1980. The report stated that military officers have a great influence in the country and have tried to protect those who committed the most horrendous crimes from being punished.

The four U.S. nuns were kidnapped near the San Salvador airport on 2 December 1980 and were raped and murdered by soldiers on that same day.

HONDURAN MANEUVERS VIEWED AS REHEARSAL FOR WAR

FL162330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] A Honduran Armed Forces' report has implied that U.S. military maneuvers in Honduras were a rehearsal for war against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran guerrillas. Media reports quoted Lieutenant Colonel Alvaro Romero as saying that although the maneuvers lasted 1 year, they were a single mock exercise on a 30-day war situation.

According to statements made by U.S. and Honduran officials, the maneuvers hypothesized a war against a neighboring country, and against an intensive internal guerrilla movement promoted by that nation. Commentaries from Tegucigalpa on this matter showed that although the hypothetical situation occurred in Honduras, the mention of an internal guerrilla movement is evidently a reference to El Salvador, and the neighboring nation is supposedly Nicaragua.

COST OF NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS BEING ESTIMATED

FL170147 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Managua -- Nicaraguan State Council President Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez announced on Tuesday that the finance minister has begun to estimate government expenses for the presidential elections scheduled for 1985. During debates over an amendment to the nation's Fundamental Statute, Nunez Tellez said that several million cordobas will be invested in the elections.

When the FSLN presented its election proposal to the State Council on 14 January, it proposed that the government finance the electoral campaign up to 0.5 percent [figure as heard] of the country's budget.

Nunez Tellez also mentioned the vote counting boards that will operate in the country, which will imply the mobilization of up to 18,000 people for whom the government must provide food and transportation.

NICARAGUAN JUNTA CREATES TELEVISON SYSTEM

FL170050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Managua -- The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has created the Sandinist Television System [Sistema Sandinista de Television], which will have exclusive responsiblity for broadcasting for the entire country.

This government system will be run by a directorate that will be headed by a delegate from the government junta and made up of the president of the Council for Higher Education and the ministries of education and culture, among representatives of other organizations.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

FL152200 Bridgetown CANA in English 1937 GMT 15 Feb 84

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 15 (CANA) -- Barbados is looking to the private sector to take the lead in helping government realise its target of a sustained annual growth rate of 3.5 per cent in the island's gross domestic product (GDP) over the next five years, according to the government's 1983-88 development plan. The 206-page document, tabled in Parliament yesterday, says the government proposes to follow "a policy of fiscal moderation" over this period. State investment will be restricted to areas of greatest socio-economic stress, high yielding socio-economic ventures, and programmes that can attract concessional financing.

"...The main thrust of economic strategy...will...be to sustain an annual average growth rate of 3.5 per cent over the five year period. To accomplish this, the economy will be kept on its export-oriented path, with tourism, manufacturing, export agriculture and services being the main generators of foreign exchange and employment," it says.

"Within the context of this strategy, the lead will have to be assumed by the private sector, working in close collaboration with the trade union movement."

The government's intention to pursue this "policy of fiscal moderation" for much of the five-year period is aimed at safeguarding Barbados' fiscal and balance of payments position which weakened during the international recession, according to the plan, entitled "change plus growth."

"As Barbados moves further away from a low economic base, it may become more difficult to sustain very high annual rates of economic growth in statistical terms," the government document said.

"However, given the slowdown in the rate of population growth and the fact that many important infrastructural programmes have already been implemented, a very high annual growth need not be a principal concern of the development effort."

"...The important consideration is to settle upon a growth rate which can be sustained over the long term, without jeopardising the fiscal and external balances of the economy and creating resource-allocation bottlenecks."

Public sector investment between 1983 and 1988 is projected at 722.7 million dollars (one Bdos dollar; 50 cents U.S.), with the highest allocation -- 37.5 per cent -- going to such economic sectors as agriculture, tourism and industry.

At the same time, the government will be aiming at bringing down the current account deficit to between 2.5 and three per cent of GDP to 21 million dollars by 1987 from 68 million in 1982.

"Government recognises that concerted effort has to be made to perempt the occurrence of major external payments and debt problems in Barbados," the document said.

In support of this, a course of keeping fiscal deficits within manageable proportions will continue to guide the government's financial policy, it added.

Exports of goods and services are expected to go up annually by 4.8 per cent from 1,225 million dollars in 1982 to 1,551 million in 1987. Imports too are projected to increase from 1,287 million dollars in 1982 to 1,588 million in 1987 -- an annual rise of 4.3 per cent. Domestic exports are projected to climb from 384 million dollars to 550 million by the end of the five-year plan period. According to the development plan, the projected annual 3.5 per cent economic growth rate means that Barbados' GDP at factor cost will increase by 344.4 million dollars by 1987, moving to 2,138.8 million dollars from 1,804.4 million in 1982.

The contribution of tourism, Barbados' single largest hard currency earner, is expected to record a compounded annual growth of 6.7 per cent over the five-year development period. In money terms, this represents a jump from 181.1 million dollars in 1982 to 250.0 million by 1987. Visitor arrivals are also expected to reach 420,000 by 1987 from 303,745 in 1982 as a result of planned initiatives by the government which wants to enlarge domestic value-added accruing from tourism. These initiatives include making a large scale thrust into the lucrative United States market to secure a larger base, placing special emphasis on the attention of special interest groups, particularly convention business, retirees, and honeymooners, and taking measures to protect Barbados' market position in traditional areas, like Europe, Canada and the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

The document says the manufacturing sector which is "ideally placed to assume the lead in the development process," should increase output to 286.0 million dollars, from the figure of 217.2 million dollars projected from 1983. Manufacturing's share of GDP should then be 13.4 per cent.

Barbados is optimistic that trade and investment concessions under the U.S.-sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) will give a boost to the local manufacturing sector. The widening of the now contracting regional market in Caricom would also enhance the sector's long-term growth prospects. "The basic strategy at this juncture calls for Barbados to move to a skill-intensive phase of industrialisation, based upon a partnership between private and foreign capital," the development plan says.

Government plans to execute this strategy on three fronts:

1. The accentuation of efforts to tap extra-regional markets in areas that draw most heavily on Barbados resources configuration. Special areas of emphasis include electronics, medical supplies and equipment and information handling and processing industries.

2. The widening of the scope for domestic import substitution in cases where a positive net foreign exchange result can be thus served or where the activities create linkages with other domestic sectors like agriculture and tourism.

3. Continued penetration of the Caricom market particularly by intermediate and small scale enterprises...

The development plan outlines a strategy to rehabilitate the ailing sugar industry so that it can service its guaranteed export and local markets, as well as take advantage of spot demands as price conditions warrant. Sugar was once Barbados' main hard currency earner but production levels have dipped substantially in recent years because of a range of factors. By 1987, the government wants to see output at around 120,000 tonnes compared with 85,000 last year which was an all time low. "The sugar industry has a permanent role to perform as a major source of foreign exchange generation. The performance of this role has been adversely affected in recent decades by its failure to adopt modern and technologically effective field, factory and management practices, as well as by the variability of export prices," the development plans says. The government promises the necessary incentives for further mechanisation of field activities, an extension of price supports to stabilise earnings, encouragement of the rationalisation of factory operations, and provision of financing for research.

If government's projections are realised, the real contribution of sugar to GDP in 1987 will be 3.7 per cent or 80 million dollars, representing an annual compounded growth rate of 6.5 per cent. The government is expecting non-sugar agriculture to give a good showing during the plan period. Output in this sector increased significantly between 1978 and 1982, and, in fact, it was the only sector that recorded any real growth in 1982.

The plan envisages an increase in food production with the expected planting of more acreage in food crops like yams, onions, fruits, etc. Pork and vegetable production is also expected to increase.

Real GDP in the non-sugar agriculture sector is expected to grow at 3.5 percent annually to reach 78.1 million dollars by 1987. The government's development strategy for this sector up to 1987 includes modernizing the fishing industry, developing an area in northeastern Barbados as a principal fruit producing region, rehabilitating the cotton industry, and continuing efforts to make Barbados self-sufficient in vegetable and root crop production.

The five-year development plan outlines the government's intention to develop Barbados as a leading service centre in the Caribbean. "Such activities will lead to the expansion of the foreign exchange, employment and revenue generation power of the economy," the document says.

The government says it is hoping to bring down unemployment to around eight per cent by 1987 from the present level of 15.8 per cent. "Our programme for employment generation is formed by the principle that the level of unemployment can only be reduced by three measures: the expansion of existing enterprises, the creation of new ones and the structuring of the supply of skills in accord with the demand for labour services...," the document says.

However, government feels that the adoption and widespread use of the shift system is critical to the process of employment generation. It proposes working with the trade unions and private sector to make this a permanent part of Barbadian economic life.

A national commission will be set up to deal with the issue.

Barbados' labour force is projected to increase annually by 1.4 per cent during the plan period to reach 120,000 persons by 1987 from 11,800 in 1982. The number of persons in jobs is expected to rise to 110,400 in 1987 from 96,600 in 1982. According to the five-year development plan, the government and services sector will remain the largest unit of employment over the next five years, with the total number of persons employed growing to 37.2 thousand in 1987 from 35.3 thousand in 1982. This figure represents 33.7 per cent of the labour force. Agriculture is expected to employ 7.4 per cent of the labour force and manufacturing 15.4 per cent. The document says tourism appears to be a continued source of high employment generation and its role is not expected to drop significantly.

GRENADA

CHURCHES TO SPONSOR JOB RETRAINING PROGRAM

FL161228 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Grenada's churches will sponsor a retraining program for former members of the now disbanded People's Revolutionary Army. Archdeacon (Hoskin Hoggins), head of Grenada's Anglican Church, said the Skills training program is aimed at helping the men find jobs. The group plans to provide training in construction, fishing and fish processing, agriculture, child care, hotel catering, masonry, commercial arts, and adult education.

JAMAICA

BASIC FOOD PRICES INCREASE AFTER IMF MEASURES

FL160310 Bridgetown CANA in English 2320 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 15 (CANA) -- Jamaican consumers were today faced with another string of price increases of between six and 15 percent on basic food items. But, Industry and Commerce Minister Douglas Vaz says they have nothing to do with persistent reports that the government is planning to remove subsidies from such commodities. Minister Vaz said that the increases on chicken necks and backs, counter flour, salted fish, mackerel, rice, skimmed powdered milk, and sardines were due largely to transportation and warehousing costs. The former had increased between 95 and 111 per cent and the latter by up to 140 per cent since 1980 when these products last had price increases. "It is clear, therefore, that the government has done its best to cushion as much as possible the effects of these legitimate increases to retailers and distributors," Vaz said.

Jamaicans have been rocked by a string of sharp price movements since the 43-per cent devaluation of the local currency last November. At the time of the November devaluation, which was an International Monetary Fund (IMF) pre-condition for negotiations on a new stand-by credit facility, Prime Minister Edward Seaga pledged that basic food subsidies would be kept until March 1985, and thereafter be phased out over a two-year period. However, with the IMF demanding a rapid reduction in the fiscal deficit, now standing at over 15 percent of GDP, and the government forced to cut spending, commentators and bankers here have suggested that Seaga will hard pressed to retain the subsidies, even through one more fiscal year.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OPPOSITION GROUPS SEEKING ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT

FL160305 Bridgetown CANA in English 2324 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 15 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's two main opposition groups are pursuing some kind of electoral accommodation in the event Prime Minister George Chambers opts for an early poll ahead of the 1986 constitutional deadline.

The Opposition for National Reconstruction (ONR), led by ex-Attorney General Karl Hudson Phillips, said in a statement that it had a meeting on the issue with the parliamentary opposition National Alliance. The ONR has no seats in Parliament.

The two groups struck up an arrangement for local government elections last year, and together picked up a surprising 66 seats for the opposition against the 54 won by the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

ONR public relations officer Lennox Raphael said the recent "Frank, cordial and constructive" talks centred on "the continuing relationship". No other details were given.

Prime Minister Chambers' PNM, in power here for over 25 years, won 26 seats in the last general elections in November 1981. The remaining 10 went to the alliance -- a merger of three opposition groups -- the United Labour Front (ULF), the Tobago-based Democratic Action in Congress, and the Tapia House Movement.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF BANKRUPTCY

FL161306 Bridgetown CANA in English 0008 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 15 (CANA) -- The CATHOLIC STANDARD, weekly organ of the Roman Catholic Church here, has accused the Forbes Burnham government here of bankruptcy.

"Its inability to meet the enormous debts it has incurred and to do the normal things expected of a government -- to provide food, water, drugs, housing, and clothing -- is, by whatever name the (ruling) may call it, bankruptcy," the paper said in an editorial.

The paper said after 20 years of mismanagement by a "small clique of party officials, the edict has gone forth that there must be democracy through the implementation of the regional system."

The STANDARD was referring to a decision by the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) to set up 750 so-called people's co-operative units, which are intended to unite and organise the three-quarters of a million people of Guyana at all levels of the society. The paper said government had put forward the system as the solution of all the country's problems.

What the central government with all its resources and experience has failed to do, the democratic organs of the regions must achieve, the STANDARD declared sarcastically.

"With little expertise and even fewer financial resources, these democratic organs must support the schools, provide for the hospitals, take over the responsibilities of the water authority, manage the corporations, provide light, transport, and all other services," the paper said.

The STANDARD charged that the regional system was, in effect, merely a way of implementing the edicts of the party, "whose overriding aim is to maintain itself in power."

The paper called for a return to free and fair elections, and predicted further chaos with "the mockery of democracy which the new system proposes."

ANP REPORTS CRITICAL FOREIGN CURRENCY SHORTAGE

FL161336 Bridgetown CANA in English 1050 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Amsterdam, Feb 16 (CANA-REUTER) -- Suriname faces a critical shortage of foreign currency reserves and must urgently seek loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Dutch news agency ANP said today.

ANP was quoting a secret report submitted to the government of the former Dutch colony, which last month was hit by a wave of strikes by bauxite workers aimed at ending the military rule of Desi Bouterse. The report was compiled by an advisory group chaired by Trade and Industry Minister Fong Poen that was set up at the height of the strikes to study ways of reviving Suriname's embattled economy. Bauxite provides 80 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings, but revenue has been hit by low world prices.

Late last year, the South American state negotiated a 100 million dollar loan from the IMF. But proposed tax increases included in the loan conditions sparked the worker protests and forced the left-wing government to pull out of the agreement.

The Netherlands halted economic aid to Suriname after the murder of 15 opposition leaders during an alleged coup attempt in December, 1982.

The combined problems had cost 200 million Suriname guilders (115 million dollars) in lost earnings, ANP quoted the report as saying. Reserves had fallen to 65 million Suriname guilders (37 million dollars) from 165 million (95 million) at the end of last year. In reality, Suriname had "practically no available reserves left," the report said. It recommended drastic import controls on luxury goods and tax reforms to encourage higher bauxite exports.

Bouterse, who seized power in a coup four years ago, survived the strikes but dismissed the government of Prime Minister Errol Alibux, which had negotiated the IMF deal. A new cabinet was sworn in earlier this month.

ANP said the report revealed the IMF had proposed a 30 per cent devaluation of the Suriname guilder last year to aid the flagging economy. However, the group believed a devaluation would have no positive effects and would hit firms dependent on imported raw materials.

Suriname's budget deficit was forecast soaring to 343 million Suriname guilders (198 million dollars) in 1984 from 158 million (91 million) last year. This compared with a total budget this year of 789 million (455 million), the report added.

ECUADOR

57 DETAINED DURING STREET DEMONSTRATIONS

PA161901 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Report by Salomon Osorio]

[Excerpts] Pichincha Department police intendant (Rafael Moreno) has told Ecuador Radio that so far 57 people have been detained following street demonstrations today similar in intensity to those on previous days. (Moreno) said that every detained student who is of legal age and who is at the disposal of the intendancy must pay almost 11,000 sucres before release. He also reported the detention of more than a hundred minors, who will be tried by the appropriate court.

Ecuador Radio has learned that the most serious incidents occurred at La Alameda Square, near the Mejia National Institute in downtown Quito; in the colonial neighborhood; and in the northern area, where the San Montalvo teachers' school operates.

BRIEFS

OIL CONTRACTS -- According to CEPE [Eduadoran State Petroleum Corporation] Manager Patricio Ribadeneira, 86,000 barrels of Ecuadoran oil have been placed in long-term contracts. Ribadeneira added that 30,000 barrels are still to be placed and that negotiations are being conducted with foreign enterprises. [Summary] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 84 PA]

MEXICO

COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT 23-26 FEB

FL161352 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Foreign Secretariat announced here today that Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid during 23-26 February.

International reports have indicated that Foreign Minister Lloreda may bring an official invitation for President De la Madrid to visit Colombia next month, but the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has declined to comment on these reports.

A press communique stated that Lloreda will visit Mexico from 23 to 26 February at the invitation of Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor.

PSUM CC RESOLUTION ON LEADERSHIP NOTED

For the "unabridged" resolution on the need to eliminate compartmentalized leadership approved by the Second Plenum of the Central Committee of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM], held in Mexico City on 4-6 November 1983, as published in Mexico City ASI ES in Spanish on 11-17 November 1983, see the JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT (JPRS-LAM-84-009) for 18 January 1984, pages 137-151.